

















THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
SOMERSETSHIRE.

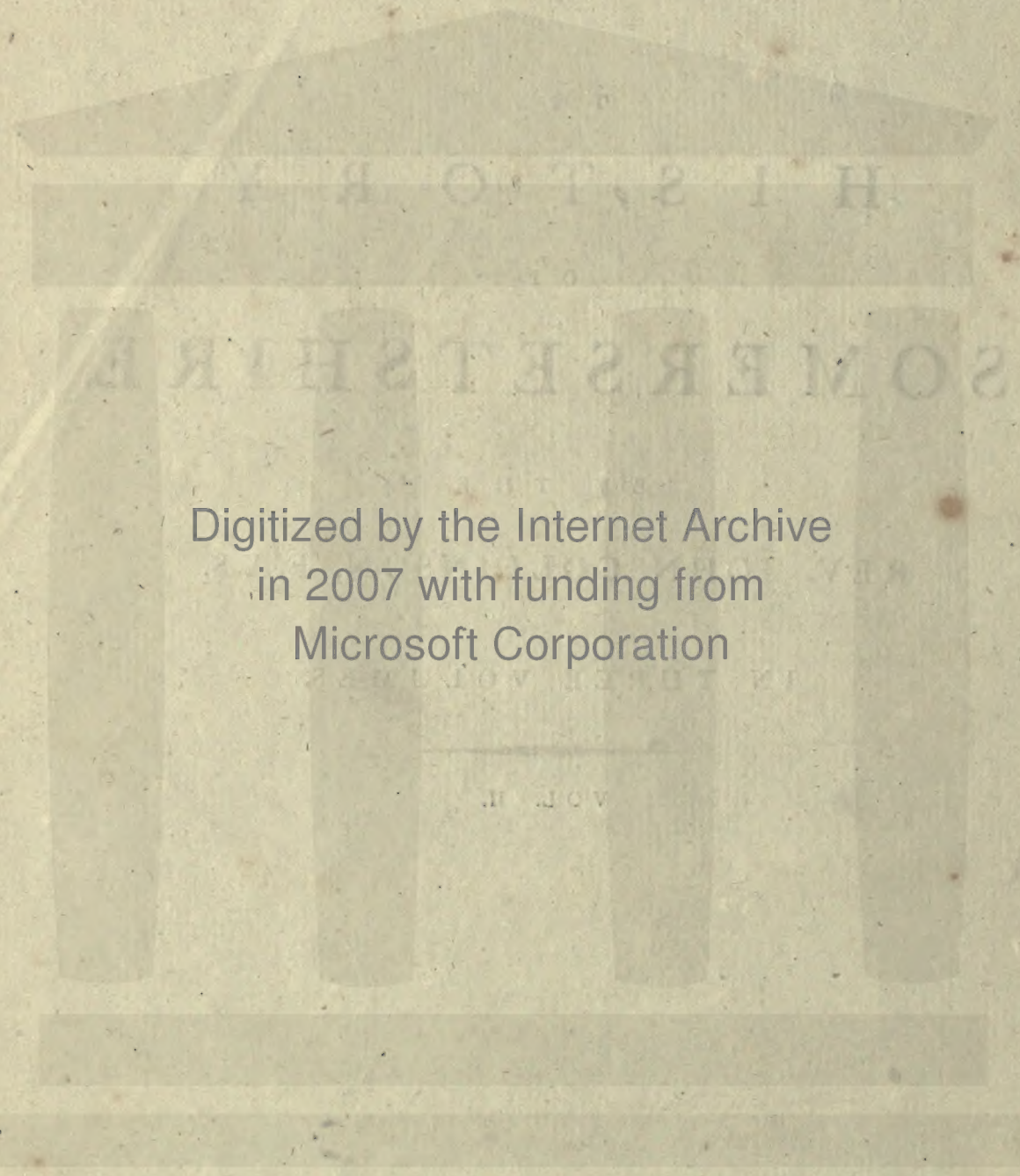
BY THE  
REV. JOHN COLLINSON, F.A.S.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

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VOL. II.





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THE  
HISTORY  
AND  
ANTIQUITIES  
OF THE  
COUNTY  
OF  
SOMERSET,

COLLECTED FROM  
AUTHENTICK RECORDS,  
AND AN  
*ACTUAL SURVEY MADE BY THE LATE MR. EDMUND RACK.*

ADORNED WITH  
A MAP OF THE COUNTY,  
And ENGRAVINGS of ROMAN and other RELIQUES, TOWN-SEALS, BATHS,  
CHURCHES, and GENTLEMEN'S SEATS.

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BY THE  
*REVEREND JOHN COLLINSON, F. A. S.*  
Vicar of LONG-ASHTON, Curate of FILTON alias WHITCHURCH, in the County of Somerfet;  
and Vicar of CLANFIELD, in the County of Oxford.

*Exutæ variant faciem per secula gentes.* Manilius.

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IN THREE VOLUMES.  
VOL. II.

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BATH: PRINTED BY R. CRUTTWELL;  
AND SOLD BY  
C. DILLY, POULTRY; G. G. J. and J. ROBINSON, and T. LONGMAN, PATER-NOSTER-ROW;  
and T. PAYNE, MEWS-GATE, LONDON;  
J. FLETCHER, OXFORD; and the BOOKSELLERS of BATH, BRISTOL, &c.

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THE HISTORY OF  
SOMERSETSHIRE.

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THE HUNDRED OF  
CARHAMPTON.

**T**HIS hundred is situated in the northwest part of the county, and is bounded on the north and northwest by the sea, from the east to the southwest by the hundred of Williton Freemanors, and on the west by the borders of Devonshire.

This mountainous tract may with great propriety be called the *Alps* of Somersetshire; the whole country being a picturesque assemblage of lofty hills succeeding each other, with deep romantick vallies winding between them, in which most of the towns and villages are situated. The hills are principally sheep-walks; but in the western part many of them are so covered with heath, fern, and moss, as to afford little pasturage. The steep sides of most of them are either entirely vested or patched with beautiful hanging woods, intermixed with projecting rugged rocks. The vallies are fruitful, and generally watered by small streams, running over rough rocky channels, and often interrupted by stony fragments fallen from the mountains.

This hundred contains two market towns, and in all fifteen parishes, in which are one thousand and thirty houses, and nearly six thousand inhabitants. It gives name to the first parish we shall treat of, viz.



## C A R H A M P T O N.

**S**ITUATED at the northwest point of the hundred, and so denominated (as it is supposed) from Carantacus, a British saint, the son of Keredic, prince of the province of Cardigan. The Monkish legends<sup>a</sup> inform us, that this Keredick had many children, of whom the above-named Carantacus, or Carantac, betimes discovered an uncommon disposition to piety and goodness. That when his father, harrassed with troubles, and worn out with years, and no longer able to sustain the weight of government, proposed to resign to him the regency of the province, he declined the honour, and preferred a pilgrim's staff to a prince's sceptre. That led by Providence, he migrated from his native land to this distant place, where reposing, he built an oratory, and spent his time in prayer and praise to God.

That such a person might have retired hither, and erected a small oratory, is not altogether improbable; but what Leland says, viz. that in his time there existed a chapel of that saint, which sometime was the parish church,<sup>b</sup> cannot so easily be reconciled. The Norman record however, which was compiled upwards of seven hundred years ago, gives us notice of a church in this place:

“ In the church of CARENTONE lies one hide and a half. There is in demesne one carucate and a half, with a priest, and one villane, and eight cottagers. There are forty acres of pasture, and fifteen acres of wood. It is worth thirty shillings.”<sup>c</sup>

At the time this survey was composed the manor was in William the Conqueror's hands, indistinctly with those of Williton and Cannington. He soon after gave it to William de Mohun, one of the retinue that attended him into England, and of whom notice will be taken in Dunster, which was the head of his barony. It was however, together with the hundred we are describing, the honour of Dunster, and divers other possessions, alienated from this family in the time of Edward III. to the family of Luttrell, in whom it has invariably continued to the present time, John Fownes Luttrell, esq; being now lord thereof.

The manor of *Eastbury* in Carhampton was for many successive centuries the estate of the very ancient family of Percival, and was not severed from that house till about the beginning of the present century.

There is within this parish an ancient hamlet of the name of *Rodebuisb*, standing two miles southeastward from the church, and containing twenty houses, and a small chapel, which seems to have been of ancient foundation, the name being composed of the Saxon Rob, signifying a rood or cross, and the Belgic word *buys*, a dwelling. It is called in Dom-sday-Book *Radebewis*, and has this description:

“ Hugo holds of Alured RADEHEWIS. Aluric held it in the time of king Edward, and gelded for one virgate of land. The arable is one carucate, which is in demesne, with one cottager, and one acre of meadow, and twelve acres of pasture. When he received it, it was worth two shillings, now six shillings.”<sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Vide Jo. Tinmouth, ap. Capgrav. in Carantaco.

<sup>b</sup> Lel. Itin. ii. 101.

<sup>c</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>d</sup> Ibid.



The church of Carhampton, valued in 1292 at four marks and a half,<sup>e</sup> was appropriated to the priory of Bath.<sup>f</sup> It is a vicarage in the deanery of Dunster, and in the patronage of — Sanford, esq; of George-Hampton in the county of Devon. The Rev. Mr. Abraham is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and consists of a nave, south aisle, and chancel. At the west end there is a low stone tower, topped with wood, containing a clock and four bells.

There is a monument<sup>g</sup> in the south aisle to the memory of Sarah Trevelyan of Knole, relict of Thomas, eldest son of Hugh Trevelyan, of Yarncombe in the county of Devon, esq; who died Nov. 26, 1667, aged 37.

This parish contains seventy houses, and nearly two hundred inhabitants.

<sup>e</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

<sup>f</sup> Mon. Angl. i. 477.

<sup>g</sup> “Ther lyith one Elizabeth, wife to one of the Luterelles afore the high altare under a playne stone.”  
Lel. Itin. ii. 101.

## C U L B O N E, alias K I T N O R.

A Very small parish on the sea coast, nine miles west from the town of Minehead, containing only nine houses and fifty inhabitants. The lands consist of eighty acres of arable, and two hundred acres of pasture and furze-brake, the rest is wood.

The ancient appellation of this parish is KYTENORE or KITNOR; that of *Culbone* having obtained in later times, from the saint to whom its church is dedicated. The Norman survey calls it *Chetenore*, and thus describes it:

“Drogo holds of the bishop [of Coutance] CHETENORE. In the time of king Edward it gelded for one hide, and one virgate. The arable is two carucates. There are two villanes, and one cottager, and one servant, with one plough, and fifty acres of pasture, and one hundred acres of wood. It is worth fifteen shillings. These two manors [viz. Winemeresham, now Winsham, which immediately precedes this article, and Chetenore] Osmund held in the time of king Edward.<sup>h</sup>

Which Osmund, being dispossessed of it at the Norman revolution, king William the Conqueror conferred it on Geffrey bishop of Coutance, with divers other manors in this county. In latter ages it had owners of its name, of whom William de Kytenore held it in the time of Edward I. after whom it passed into the family of Bratton. 16 Ric. II. Peter Bratton is certified to hold it of John de Raleghe as of his manor of Alryngton, by military service, and was succeeded in it by Thomas his son and heir.<sup>i</sup> Which Thomas was ancestor to John Bratton, who was lord of this vill in the time of Edw. IV.

<sup>h</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>i</sup> Efc. 16 Ric. II.



and was father of several children, of whom John the eldest had Kitenore. To him succeeded John, Simon, and John, all of them possessors of this place. But by the inquisition, 6 Henry VI. Walter Pauncefote (the heir of Henry Sidenham) and William Bachell are certified to hold separately half a knight's fee here, which Maurice de Kytanore formerly held.\* The present possessor is Lord King, who is also patron of the living, which is a rectory, in the deanery of Dunster. The Rev. William Clare is the present incumbent.

The church is a small Gothick building, thirty-four feet long, and twelve feet wide, consisting of a single aisle, chancel, and porch, covered with Cornish tiles. The situation of this church is singularly romantick; it stands in a little narrow cove, about four hundred feet above the level of the water. On each side this cove the hills rise almost perpendicularly more than twelve hundred feet high. That on the west side is conical, and considerably higher. The back of the cove is a noble amphitheatre of steep hills and rocks, which rise near six hundred feet above the church, and are covered with coppice woods to the tops. The trees which compose these vast plantations, set by the hand of nature, are oaks, beech, mountain ash, poplars, pines, and firs, mingled together in the most wanton variety. At the back ground of this cove, through a steep narrow winding glen, a fine rivulet rushes down a narrow rocky channel overhung with wood, and passing by the church, forms a succession of cascades in its descent down the rocks into the sea.

This spot is as truly romantick as any perhaps which the kingdom can exhibit. The magnitude, height, and grandeur of the hills, rocks, and woods, at the back and on each side of the cove; the solemnity of the surrounding scene; the sound of the rivulet roaring down its craggy channel; the steep impassable descent from the church down to the beach; the dashing of the waves on a rough and stony shore at an awful distance below; the extent of the channel, and finely varied coast and mountains of Wales beyond it; form a scene peculiarly adapted to strike the mind with pleasure and astonishment.

This parish cannot be approached on horseback without great difficulty, and even danger; the road from Porlock being only a path about two feet wide, winding in a zigzag direction along the slope of the hills, and often interrupted by large loose stones and roots of trees. The woods abound with whortleberries, and a variety of fine poly-podies, lichen, and other mosses; among which is some of the yellow rein-deer moss, very bright and scarce. There are also some rare plants; and many wild deer, foxes, badgers, and martin cats, inhabit these woods.

During the three winter months the sun is never seen here; being entirely hid by the height of the surrounding hills.

\* Lib. feod. ms.



C U T C O M B E

IS an extensive parish, lying eight miles south from Minehead, and twenty-seven northwest from Taunton. The church and most of the houses are situated in a fruitful vale, called *Watercombe*, bounded by very lofty eminences to the north and south. On the western side is *Dunkery*, a very large and high mountain, standing in the several parishes of Cutcombe, Luccombe, Wotton-Courtney, Stoke-Pero, and Exford. From the church at Wotton-Courtney the ascent to its summit is three miles, and very steep. Its base is about twelve miles in circumference. The highest part of it is the south southwest, and by an accurate measurement one thousand seven hundred and seventy feet above the sea at high-water mark. To this height it rises in naked sublimity, and is seen at a vast distance both by sea and land; but frequently the top is obscured in clouds. No part is cultivated; but in many places it is covered with whortleberry plants, divers species of erica, and some rare bog and other mosses, with a little grass intermixed.

On the top of this hill is a vast collection of rough loose stones, from one to two hundred pounds in weight each; and among them the ruins of three large fire-hearths, about eight feet square, and built of rough unwrought stones. These fire-places form an equilateral triangle, and in the center is another hearth considerably larger than the rest. At the distance of near a mile, and more than two hundred feet lower, the vestiges of two other hearths are visible, with vast quantities of rough loose disjointed stones scattered round them. These are the remains of those beacons which were formerly erected on this elevated spot, in order to alarm the country in times of civil discord or foreign invasion. Hence the hill to this day retains the name of *Dunkery Beacon*.

As this is the highest mountain in the west of England, it affords so extensive and noble a prospect, as to merit particular description. In a clear day the view extends from the high lands near Plymouth, on the southwest, to the Malvern-Hills in Worcestershire on the north, which are more than two hundred miles distant from each other. On the west and northwest the British Channel, for near one hundred and thirty miles in length, lies under the eye, with the greater part of South-Wales, from Monmouthshire down to Pembrokeshire, rising in a fine amphitheatre beyond it. To the east and south, the greater part of Somersetshire, Dorset, and Devon, with some parts of Hants and Wilts, appear to view. When the air is clear and serene the line which bounds the horizon cannot be less than five hundred miles in circumference, and takes in fifteen counties.

The name of this parish is written in the Norman survey *Udecome*, which is derived from the Saxon *Fuða*, wood, and *Lomb*, a deep valley or hollow beset with mountains. It is thus surveyed:

“ William himself holds UDECOME. Ælmer held it in the time of king Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is fifteen carucates. In demesne are four carucates, and six servants, and eighteen villanes, and five cottagers, with five ploughs. There are six swineherds, who pay thirty-one pigs; and a mill of five shillings rent,  
“ and



“ and six acres of meadow. Pasture two miles in length, and one mile in breadth.  
 “ A wood one mile long, and half a mile broad. It was formerly worth three pounds,  
 “ now six pounds.

“ Of the land of this manor three soldiers hold of William one hide and half a virgate of land, and they have there two ploughs, and four villanes, and six cottagers, with one plough. There are two acres of meadow, and fourteen acres of wood; pasture half a mile in length, and five furlongs in breadth. It was and is worth thirty-five shillings and sixpence.”<sup>1</sup>

This was another of the manors which the Conqueror gave to Sir William de Mohun, from whom it assumed the name of Cutcombe-Mohun, and in whose descendants it continued till the latter end of the reign of Edward III. when John Lord Mohun dying without issue male, such estates as remained unalienated by his widow,<sup>m</sup> were divided betwixt three daughters, coheiresses, of whom Philippa the wife of Edward Duke of York had this manor, and died seized thereof 10 Henry VI. leaving Richard Lord le Strange of Knocking, her cousin and next heir.<sup>n</sup> Which Richard, 24 Henry VI. is found to have released all his right to this manor of Cutcombe-Mohun to Alexander Hody and others.<sup>o</sup>

But there was another manor in Cutcombe, called the manor of Cutcombe-Raleigh, from its possessors of that name, to distinguish it from the other. This manor descended through many generations of the Raleighs to the family of Dodisham; and thence by the marriage of Eleanor, daughter and heiress of William Dodisham, to John Gilbert, of Wollavington, esq; whose daughter and heir Joan brought it by marriage to Roger Pym of Brymore, from whose descendants it passed in like manner by the marriage of an heiress to Sir Thomas Hales, bart. and now both the manors of Cutcombe-Mohun, and Cutcombe-Raleigh, are in the possession of Sir Philip Hales, bart.

There are two hamlets in this parish of the names of *Ludwell-Bridge*, and *Codfend*. The former is two miles southwest from Cutcombe, and contains twelve houses. A fair is held here about Michaelmas for sheep and black cattle. The other hamlet is three miles west, and contains only five houses. In Codfend moor a small stream rises called Wester River, which runs through Ladwell, and has over it two small stone bridges. A second river, called Stowey Water, rises in Harecliff, one mile eastward from the church; and a third rises in Dunkery. All these rivers contain trout and eels, and run to Dunster, where they discharge themselves into the sea.

Betwixt Cutcombe and Timberscombe there is a depopulated place, called *Oaktrow*, which having been parcel of the manor of Cutcombe-Mohun, we shall here briefly notice. Its ancient name was *Wochetrev*, as we find it in Domesday-book:

“ Durand holds of William [de Mohun] WOCHETREV. Manno held it in the time of king Edward, and gelded for half a virgate of land. The arable is one carucate. There are two villanes, with half a plough, and four acres of wood. It was worth four shillings, now six shillings.”<sup>p</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>m</sup> See the account of Dunster.

<sup>n</sup> Efc. 10 Hen. VI.

<sup>o</sup> Rot. claus. 24 Hen. VI.

<sup>p</sup> Lib. Domesday.



The church of Cutcombe was anciently appropriated to the priory of Brewton, and together with Luxborough was valued in 1292 at ten marks.<sup>1</sup> The prior of Dunster received out of the rectory an annual pension of forty shillings and three-pence.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Dunster, and in the gift of the crown. The Rev. Mr. Wilkins is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Laurence,<sup>2</sup> and is an ancient structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, and north aisle tiled; a tower at the west end contains five bells.

There is no monument nor inscription worthy of notice.

A charity-school was founded in this parish about the year 1720, by Richard Elsworth, of Timbercombe, esq; for teaching poor children to read and write. The endowment was ten pounds per annum, and the school is still kept up.

The number of houses in this parish is about eighty-six, and of inhabitants upwards of five hundred. The average number of christenings fifteen; the burials eight.

<sup>1</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

<sup>2</sup> Edon says St. John.

## D U N S T E R

**I**S a town situated about twenty-five miles from Bridgwater, on the margin of a rich and fertile vale, open on the north to the Bristol Channel, which is one mile distant; but bounded on all other sides by steep and lofty hills, rising one behind another in grand succession.

In the time of the Saxon Heptarchy this was a place of great note, and was a fortress of the West-Saxon kings. At this early period, and indeed for some centuries after, it was called *Toppe*, a fortified tower; but in after days *Dunestorre*, and by contraction *Dunster*; the additional Dun or Dune implying a ridge of mountains stretching out lengthwise upon the sea coast.

At the time of the Norman Conquest it constituted the head of a large barony, and was given by William the Conqueror to Sir William de Moion or Mohun. The survey says:

“ William himself holds *TORRE*, and there is his castle. Aluric held it in the time of king Edward, and gelded for half a hide. The arable is one carucate. There are two mills of ten shillings rent, and fifteen cottagers, and five acres of meadow, and thirty acres of pasture. It was formerly worth five shillings, now fifteen shillings.”<sup>3</sup>

This Sir William de Mohun, who was of a very ancient and eminent family in Normandy, when the Norman duke had announced his intention of visiting England

<sup>3</sup> Lib. Domesday.



in arms, was one of the first of those gentry who engaged in the expedition, and brought over with him fifty-seven knights of his retinue, all of them persons of distinction, both as to parentage and military enterprize.<sup>b</sup> Having thus relinquished his native soil, he seated himself among those territories which he had acquired from his victorious sovereign, and not only rebuilt the castle, but added largely to the buildings of the town; and on the northwest side of his mansion<sup>c</sup> erected a priory of Benedictine monks, which he dedicated to the honour of St. George, and in the church whereof he is said to have been buried.<sup>d</sup>

To this William de Mohun succeeded another William, who was also a knight, and is reported to have been a person of great valour. He improved the buildings of his predecessor at Dunster, and was a great benefactor to the priory there, as well as to that of Taunton, founded by William Giffard, bishop of Winchester. He was also buried at Dunster. By Agnes his wife he left issue another Sir William de Mohun, the third of that name:

Which William was one of those barons who espoused the cause of Maud the empress, and, besides other assistance, fortified his castle here in her behalf, and made many successful incursions into the neighbouring country: for these important services he had the honour of being created Earl of Somerset and Dorset, a title he enjoyed till his death, which happened about A. D. 1160, when he was buried in the priory of Brewton, of his own foundation.

His son and heir William, surnamed *Meschyne*, succeeded him. This William, 12 Henry II. upon levying the aid for marrying the king's daughter, certified his knight's fees in this county to be in number, of the old feoffment, forty, and those of the new, four.<sup>e</sup> He confirmed his father's benefactions to the priory of Brewton, and was buried in the conventual church of Dunster.<sup>f</sup>

To him succeeded Reginald de Mohun, his son and heir, who 6 John had livery of his lands. He married Alice, one of the sisters and coheiresses of William Bruer, of Torre in the county of Devon, afterwards called *Torre-Mohun* from this family, its future possessors. This Alice Bruer is set down among the benefactors to the new cathedral church of Salisbury, having contributed thereto all the marble necessary for the building thereof for twelve years.<sup>g</sup> She survived the said Reginald de Mohun her husband, and was afterwards married to William Paganel. Her issue by the former was Reginald, John, (who was seated at Ham-Mohun in the county of Dorset, where his descendants long continued) and William.

Reginald de Mohun, the eldest son, succeeded to the honour and castle of Dunster. Which Reginald 26 Henry III. was constituted chief justice of all the forests south of Trent, and 37 Henry III. was appointed governor of Sauvey castle in Leicestershire. 41 Henry III. he had summons to attend the king at Bristol with horse and arms,

<sup>b</sup> Vid. *Lel. Collectan.* vol. 1, pp. 202, 203, where their names are recited. Dugdale says only forty-seven.

<sup>c</sup> *Lel. Itin.* vol. ii. p. 101.

<sup>d</sup> *Lel. Collectan.* vol. i. p. 203.

<sup>e</sup> *Lib. nig.* vol. i. p. 91, 92.

<sup>f</sup> *Lel. Collectan.* ubi supra.

<sup>g</sup> *Lel. Itin.* iii. 95.



thence to march against the Welsh. He died that same year, and was succeeded by John de Mohun his eldest son and heir:

Which John married Joan the daughter of Sir Reginald Fitzpiers, by whom he had a son of his own name, who inherited the estate. He died in Gascony 7 Edward I. being then seized of the manors of Dunster, Carhampton, Cutcombe, Minchhead, Isle-Brewer, and Kilton in this county, besides divers other manors in the county of Devon.<sup>b</sup>

John de Mohun, the second of the name, was 22 Edward I. in the expedition then made into Gascony. 26 and 27 Edw. I. he was in the Scottish wars, and 28 Edw. I. was summoned amongst the barons to parliament. He died 4 Edw. III. leaving John his grandson, (viz. son of John his eldest son, who died in his life-time) his next heir.

This last John Lord Mohun doing his homage 15 Edward III. had livery of his lands, and in the same year confirmed all the donations which his predecessors had made to the priory of Dunster.<sup>i</sup> 16 Edward III. he served in the expedition then made into France, in the retinue of Bartholomew de Berghersh, with whom, during his minority, he had been in ward, and whose daughter Joan he afterwards married. This John Lord Mohun was one of the first knights of the most noble order of the garter,<sup>k</sup> and 47 Edw. III. had his last summons to parliament. He died about 48 Edw. III. leaving three daughters his coheiresses, viz. Philippa, married to Edward Duke of York, Elizabeth, to William de Montacute Earl of Salisbury, and Maud, to John Lord Strange of Knocking.

Which three daughters should have jointly inherited the patrimonial estates; but it seems that a deed and fine had been levied and made by the said John Lord Mohun their father sometime before his death, of the barony, honour, and manor of Dunster, together with the manors of Minehead and Kilton, and the hundred of Carhampton, which he thereby vested in the archbishop of Canterbury, and other trustees, for such uses as his wife should, in case she survived him, declare. In pursuance of which deed the said Lady Mohun 50 Edward III. sold the reversion of the said premises to Lady Elizabeth Luttrell, relict of Sir Andrew Luttrell, of Chilton in the county of Devon, and daughter of Hugh Courtnai, Earl of Devonshire. This sale being absolute, great suits at law arose between the Duke of York and Lord Strange of Knocking, who, as it has been before observed, married Sir John Mohun's two daughters; and they set forth another deed, whereby the said Sir John had entailed the same lands on the heirs of his body; and for that and other reasons disputed the power he had of making a different disposal.

<sup>b</sup> Efc.

<sup>i</sup> Mon. Angl. i. 477.

<sup>k</sup> Of this John it is recorded, that upon a petition of the inhabitants of Dunster for certain lands adjoining to the town, whereon to depasture their cattle freely and in common, he allowed his lady Joan Mohun, who supplicated in the townsmen's behalf, as much soil as she could go round in one day barefoot for the purpose abovementioned. Although this seems to rest merely on tradition, yet certain it is, that a great number of privileges flowed from the house of Mohun to this and other townships that were held under it. This John de Mohun bore for his arms, *Or*, a cross engrailed *sable*; though the more ancient coat seems to have been, *Gules*, a dexter arm, habited with a maunch *ermine*, the hand holding a fleur-de-lis *or*. Both these coats were used by the priory of Brewton, founded by this family.



The circumstances of this suit having puzzled the judges in point of law, the parliament interfered,<sup>1</sup> and first petitioned the King, that he would give a peremptory order to the judges to give their opinion; and by a second petition 1 Henry IV. desired that he would order the dispute to a reference; it being their opinion, that the parties contending were unequal in condition to dispute the title in law, considering the poor estate of Sir Hugh Luttrell, son of the lady Elizabeth Luttrell, who had made the purchase, and the great power and riches of the Duke of York. On this last petition certain lords, bishops, and judges, were sworn in parliament, to consider the whole matter, and were ordered to make an award by a certain day. But it is probable that in the mean time some agreement was made with the heirs of Lord Mohun, for it does not appear that any report was ever entered; and it is certain that Sir Hugh Luttrell, from this time, continued in quiet possession of the said manors.

Of the progenitors of this Sir Hugh Luttrell, I shall here make no mention, inasmuch as their prior residence was at East Quantockshead, an ancient manor in this county, where I purpose to deduce their descent to the time of their removal to Dunster, which was immediately after the death of Lady Mohun.

Sir Hugh Luttrell abovementioned was the first of the family who resided here. In some publick records this Sir Hugh is stiled kinsman to the King, and under that title 15 Richard II. had the grant of an annuity of forty pounds issuing out of the lands belonging to the alien priory of Wenge in the county of Bucks. 2 Hen. IV. he was appointed steward of the Queen's household, and soon after constable of the castle of Bristol, and warden of the forest of Kingswood. 3 Hen. IV. he was lieutenant of Calais, and 6 Hen. IV. was a commissioner to array men within this county, on an expectation that the French would assist the Welch rebels. 3 Hen. V. he attended the King at the taking of Harfleur, upon the surrender of which he was appointed counsel to the lieutenant, and soon after succeeded him. 4 Hen. V. in consideration of two hundred and eighty-six pounds, he agreed to serve the King in the French wars in person for one year, together with twenty men at arms, whereof one was to be a knight, and the rest esquires, and sixty archers; all to be ready at Southampton by the fourth of May: and the year following he was appointed to treat with, and take the surrender of the town of Monsterville. He was several times chosen knight of the shire for the county of Devon; and on the coronation of Henry V's Queen, he was appointed steward of her household. In his old age he lived always at Dunster, where he rebuilt a considerable part of the castle, and kept great hospitality. That he had great interest at court, appears by a letter from Henry VI. to the king of Scotland, demanding satisfaction, on the complaint of Sir Hugh Luttrell, for harbouring a Spanish ship, that had taken one of his fishing boats, and abused his tenants at Minehead. He died about 10 Henry VI. leaving issue by Catherine his wife, daughter of Sir John Beaumont, of Shirwell in the county of Devon, and widow of John Strecche, Sir John Luttrell his successor, and three daughters.

Which John, only son of Sir Hugh, was with his father in France, and there knighted. He died one year after him, having married two wives; 1st, Joan, daughter of Sir John

<sup>1</sup> Rot. Parl. 1, 2, 4 Hen. IV.



Malet of Enmore, by whom he had no children; and 2d, Margaret, daughter of John Lord Audley, by whom he had James his only son.

Which James Luttrell was in ward to Sir Philip Courtenai, and married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Sir William, eldest brother to Sir Edward Courtenai of Haccombe, who 1 Henry VII. became earl of Devonshire.<sup>m</sup> This James was always a faithful adherent to the interests of the house of Lancaster, and was at the battle of Wakefield, where the Duke of York was killed, and where he was knighted in the field; but soon after, at the second battle of St. Alban's, fighting manfully for Henry VI. he received several grievous wounds, of which he died the next day; and 1 Edw. IV. was, together with five hundred lords, knights, and esquires, attainted in Parliament. On this attainder his whole estate in Somerset, Devon, and Suffolk, was declared to be forfeited, and was accordingly seized into the King's hands, notwithstanding it had been vested in the duke of Buckingham, the bishop of London, and others, to preserve an inheritance to his children:—An instance, among many others, that in times of violence and intestine commotion, settlements are but a feeble security to a family, be they drawn ever so carefully! All these possessions were granted to Sir William Herbert, and to the heirs male of his body; who was soon after created Baron of Dunster and Earl of Pembroke.

The children of this Sir James Luttrell were, Alexander, who died soon after his father, and Hugh, as also several daughters, all young at the time of his death. They were subsisted on a rent charge of fifty pounds *per annum*, which soon after his marriage he had made in trust to James Lots and other trustees for the use of his younger children. But 1 Hen. VII. Hugh Luttrell, the only surviving son of Sir James, having in a petition set forth to the King in parliament, that what his father did and suffered for, was the truth and loyalty to his sovereign King Henry VI. praying that he might be restored to the lands of his ancestors, the attainder was reversed in parliament.

This Sir Hugh Luttrell was one of the Knights of the Bath at the coronation of Hen. VII's Queen. He married two wives, 1st, Margaret, daughter of Robert Hill, sister by the mother to Lord Daubeney, chamberlain to King Henry VII.; and 2d, Walthera, widow of Thomas Dreloc, and afterwards of Walter Yorke, merchant of the Stannaries. By his first wife he had Andrew his son and heir, and several other children. 13 Hen. VII. this Sir Hugh attended the king into the west in the expedition against Perkin Warbeck. He seems to have been a very devout person; for 2 Henry VIII. he was, together with his wife Walthera, admitted into the fraternity of the abbey of Athelney, and the same year into that of the abbey of Walsingham in Norfolk, becoming thereby entitled to the benefit of all the masses, prayers, alms, &c. belonging to the said convents.

Andrew Luttrell succeeded him 2 Hen. VIII. and was knighted the 21st of that reign, in which year he was sheriff for the counties of Somerset and Dorset. He was likewise one of those who were appointed to collect the first-fruits and tenths, which had been declared by parliament to be in the King. This Sir Andrew resided chiefly at Quantockhead, where he died 30 Henry VIII. leaving issue by Margaret, daughter of

<sup>m</sup> This Sir James Luttrell bore on his seal a Bend between six Martlets.



Sir Thomas Wyndham, of Felbridge in the county of Norfolk, Sir John Luttrell of Dunster, Thomas, Richard, (ancestor to the Luttrells of Harland, Honibere, Sandon-Court, and Chelsea) Andrew, and Hugh, and several daughters.

John, eldest son of Sir Andrew, was 36 Henry VIII. with the Earl of Hertford in Scotland, and present at the taking of Edinburgh and Leith, when he was knighted. 38 Henry VIII. he was with the said Earl of Hertford at Boulogne, and had the command of one hundred men. In the time of King Edward VI. he was in the wars of Scotland, and commanded three hundred men at the battle of Musleborough, where, it is said, he behaved with such prowess, wisdom, and conduct, as gained him the character of a compleat captain; having before, that of a compleat and worthy courtier. Indeed, it generally appears, that he was a person of great valour, zealous for the service of his prince, and extremely desirous of glory; to obtain which he spared no expence, and by that means greatly wasted the fair patrimony which descended to him from his ancestors; selling great part of his demesnes at Dunster, Kilton, and elsewhere; and at last mortgaging the plate and furniture belonging to Dunster-Castle, and his other houses.

There is an ancient picture in the castle, done by a tolerable hand, of a man swimming in the sea, and looking up to certain figures in the clouds; to which is added, by a later and very indifferent painter, the figure of a lady floating by his side. This is traditionally said to have been the picture of Sir John Luttrell, and refers to his having saved a certain lady from drowning, whom he was then in love with, and afterwards married.

His wife's name was Mary Griffith, a lady of North-Wales, who soon after his death was married to James Godolphin of the county of Cornwall. He had issue by the said Mary three daughters, heirs to a third part of his estate, the other parts being by two entails, and, by the will of this Sir John, given to Thomas Luttrell his brother.

Which Thomas, in order to preserve the remainder clear from his nieces' portions and his brother's debts, sold all the lands in Devonshire and Suffolk, which lands were fully replaced in this county, by his marriage with Margaret, sole daughter and heir of Christopher Hadley of Withycombe, great granddaughter of Philippa, daughter of Sir Humphry Audley, by Elizabeth widow of Sir James Luttrell. On occasion of this consanguinity, a special bull was obtained 5 Philip and Mary from Pope Paul V. This Thomas died 13 Eliz. Margaret his wife, surviving him, was afterwards married to John Strode of Parnham, and thirdly, to Richard Hill, esq.

George Luttrell, his eldest son, inherited his father's and mother's lands, and was sheriff of Somersetshire 36 Eliz. He added greatly to the buildings of the castle, and was much noted for his hospitality, and the general love and respect of his neighbours. He lived to a great age, dying in 1630, having married two wives, 1st, Joan, daughter of Hugh Stewkley of Marsh in this parish; and 2d, Silvestra Capper, afterwards married to Sir Edmund Story, and next to Gyles Penny.

Thomas, eldest son of the said George Luttrell, by Joan his wife, married in his father's life-time Jane the daughter of Sir Francis Popham of Littlecot, knt. and died in 1647, leaving by her several sons, of whom George, Francis, and Thomas, were  
successively



ſucceſſively lords of Dunſter-Caſtle. Thomas, the third ſon, married Lucy, daughter of Thomas Simonds, of Cambridgeſhire, eſq; and was father of two ſons, Francis and Alexander.

Francis Luttrell, the eldeſt, married Jane, ſole heir of John Tregonwell, of Milton-abbey in the county of Dorſet, eſq; and died at Plymouth in 1690, being then colonel of a regiment in the ſervice of King William; leaving by the ſaid Jane one ſon, Tregonwell Luttrell, who died without iſſue in 1706, and two daughters, Mary, the wife of Sir George Rooke, vice-admiral of England; and Frances, wife firſt of Edward Hervey, eſq; and afterwards of Edward Aſhe, of Heytesbury in the county of Wilts, eſq.

On the death of Tregonwell Luttrell in 1706, Alexander his uncle ſucceeded in the eſtate of Dunſter. He ſerved in all the war in Flanders, during the reign of King William; and in Queen Anne's time was colonel of the royal regiment of marines. He was alſo during the greateſt part of thoſe reigns member of parliament for the borough of Minehead. He died in 1714, leaving by Dorothy his wife, daughter of Edward Yard of Churſton in the county of Devon, two ſons, Alexander, lord of Dunſter-Caſtle and Quantockſhead, and member of parliament for Minehead; and Francis.

Alexander Luttrell married Margaret, daughter of Sir John Trevelyan, of Nettlecombe, bart. but by her having no iſſue male, he left his eſtates to deſcend to one ſole daughter and heirefs, Margaret, married to Henry Fownes, of Nethaway in the county of Devon, eſq; who thereupon aſſumed the name of Luttrell, and was father of John Fownes Luttrell, the preſent poſſeſſor of Dunſter-Caſtle, and member of parliament for the borough of Minehead.

The caſtle is to this day the reſidence of the Luttrell family. It is a large ſtately edifice, ſituated on a ſteep hill at the ſouth extremity of the principal ſtreet, and commands a fine view of the town, the ſea, and the mountains of South-Wales. Like other fortrefſes, it has been the ſcene of various military confuſion; and was for ſome time the durance of the famous William Prynne.\*

The extent of territory and feudal power which formerly appended to this caſtle, may be gathered from the following records:

King William the Conqueror gave to Sir William de Mohun, together with the ſcite and demefnes of the caſtle, no leſs than fifty-fix manors or vills in this county, all of them ſubſervient and doing ſervice thereto.†

In the time of Henry II. the following fees appertained to Sir William de Mohun, the fourth of that name, and were thus held:‡

William, the ſon of Durant, holds five knight's fees and a half.	Alexander de Badialton, three.
William de Elleworthe, four.	Hugh de Gundeville, two.
Roger Arundel, three.	Talebot de Hathfelde, two.
	Reiner Tornach, one fee and a half.

\* See vol. i. Wood's Athenæ Oxon. ii. 437; Biographical Dictionary; &c.

† Lib. Domeſday, Svmersſete.

‡ Lib. nig. Seac. i. 91.



William de St. Leger, one  
 Gefferey de Ver, one  
 Gefferey Hufsey, one  
 Ralph Hufsey, one  
 John Croc, one  
 Thomas de Campo florido, one  
 Walter de Lege, one  
 Robert Walfh, one  
 Robert Fitz-Gefferey, one fee and a half  
 Robert Dumaz, half a fee

Matthew de Combe and Nicol. one fee  
 Simon Bret, half a fee  
 Ralph Dacres, half a fee  
 William de Punchardun, two fees  
 Robert de Bratton, one  
 Richard de Langeham, one  
 Gerebert de Perce, one  
 Roger de Newborough, one  
 William de Curci, one.

These knights fees were of the old feoffment, that is, such as constituted the barony of the Mohuns in the reign of King Henry I.

The fees of the new feoffment, that is, those with which they were invested since the beginning of the reign of King Henry II. were as follows:

William de Curci holds one knight's fee  
 Robert Bohun, one  
 Luke de Campo florido, one

Hugh de Punchardun, half a fee  
 Richard de London, half a fee.

Knights' fees in the county of Somerset, belonging to John de Mohun, 4 Edw. III.<sup>9</sup>

Whedon holds six oxgangs of land in Whedon, by the service of half a knight's fee.

John le Bret holds of the same John de Mohun the manor of Torvestone, by the service of one knight's fee.

William de Pavely holds West Cantokshed, by the service of one knight's fee.

Walter de Furneaux holds the hamlet of Holeford, by the service of one knight's fee.

John de Bures holds the manor of Ayly, by the service of half a knight's fee.

Margaret de Boteraux holds the manor of Sherentone, by the service of one knight's fee.

The prior of Taunton holds the manor of Thurlokston, by the service of one knight's fee.

Henry Champflour holds the manor of Wyke, by the service of one knight's fee.

Walter de Wilton holds the hamlet of Tokebere, by the service of three parts of a knight's fee.

Nicholas de Barton holds two carucates of land in Morbache, by the service of one knight's fee.

William Cheney holds the manor of Pontindon, by the service of one knight's fee.

Thomas West holds the hamlet of Houndestone, by the service of one knight's fee.

William de Thorne holds Thorne-fagon, by the service of two parts of one knight's fee.

Thomas de Arundel holds the manor of Clotworthy, by the service of one knight's fee.

John Durburgh holds the manor of Hethfeld, Talebot, by the service of one knight's fee.

William de Pouleshull, and Hilary de Badialton, hold the hamlet of Badialton, by the service of one knight's fee.

James D'Audele holds the manor of Stanton, by one knight's fee.

John de Ralegh holds the manor of Ailludeford, by one knight's fee.

Philip de Columbers holds the manor of Hethfeld-Columbers, by the service of half a knight's fee.

Gefferey de Avele holds one carucate of land in Avele, by the service of half a fee.

William Everard holds the hamlets of Owle-Knolle, Lynch, and Lamham, by the service of the fourth part of a knight's fee.

Robert de Biccombe holds four oxgangs of land in Biccombe, by the service of the third part of a knight's fee.

<sup>9</sup> Inq. post mort. Johannis de Mohun, 4 Ed. III.



John de Durburgh holds four oxgangs of land in Bilcombe, by the service of the third part of a knight's fee.

John de Bratton holds two carucates of land in Bratton, by the service of half a knight's fee.

Walter Meriet held Bilcombe, Ellefworth, Willet and Maplereton-Bret, [Co. Dorset] by the service of four knight's fees.

The same Walter held Lullikesberghe-Everard,

Waketrowe, Alwerecote, by the service of the fourth part of one knight's fee.

The abbot of Clive holds Lollokiborough-Pickett, by the service of half a knight's fee.

Walter de Wedon holds five oxgangs of land in Wedon, by the service of the fourth part of one knight's fee.

Roger Attewalle, and William de Pavely, held West-Cantokesshed, by the service of one knight's fee.

The town of Dunster itself is inconsiderable, consisting chiefly of two streets; the one running in a north and south direction; the other branching westward from the church. The former, which is the principal street, is close built, paved, and of a tolerable breadth, but blocked up in the middle by an old market-cross, and a long range of old ruinous shambles. Many of the houses are good, being built with wrought stone; but the greater part are low, rough stone, thatched buildings, with old pent-houses over the doors and windows. The market is on Friday; and a chartered fair is held here on Whit-Monday.

It formerly sent members to parliament; but we retain only two of the names of its representatives, viz. Walter Morice, and Tho. Cartere, who were returned 34 Edw. III. 36 Edw. III. it was found not to the King's damage to grant license to William le Tailleor of Dunster, and Thomas de Rivers, for them to enfeof the commonalty of the town of Dunster, with one messuage and twenty-four acres of land, &c. in Carhampton, to hold to them, and their successors burgeses of the said town, for ever.

The parish of Dunster comprehends the vills of AVILL, STANTON, ALCOMBE, and MARSH. The first of these is situated one mile to the southwest, and contains ten houses. It is written in the Norman record *Avena*, and is thus surveyed:

" Ralph holds of William [de Moion] AVENA. Aluric held it in the time of king Edward, and gelded for half a hide. The arable is two carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and one villane, and five cottagers, with half a plough. There is a mill of twenty pence rent, and four acres of meadow, and two acres of wood, and fifty acres of pasture. It was and is worth ten shillings."

This place gave name to a family who resided here; but the lands were always held under the Castle of Dunster.

STANTON, the next vill, is surveyed immediately after Avill, as follows:

" William himself holds STANTUNE. Walle held it in the time of king Edward, and gelded for three virgates of land. The arable is two carucates. There are two villanes, and two servants, and two cottagers, with one plough, and five acres of meadow, and forty acres of pasture. It is worth fifteen shillings. To this manor is added one virgate of land, which a thane held in the time of King Edw. for a manor.

<sup>1</sup> Inq. ad quod damnum 36 Ed. III.

<sup>2</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>3</sup> See the Inquisitions.

" The



"The arable is one carucate. There is one cottager, and three acres of meadow, and fifty acres of pasture. It is worth three shillings."<sup>u</sup>

This manor was some time held of the Castle of Dunster by the family of Audley.\*

ALCOMBE is called in the same record *Aucome*, and was reserved in demesne by William de Mohun, like Stanton above-mentioned.

"William himself holds AUCOME. Algar held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is three carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and four servants, and three villanes, and four cottagers, with two ploughs. There are eight acres of meadow, and three furlongs of pasture. It was and is worth twenty shillings."<sup>v</sup>

Sir William de Mohun gave this manor to his priory at Dunster. There are eighteen houses in Stanton and Alcombe tithings, which are situated about one mile west from Dunster.

The manor of MARSH, or MARSHWOOD, was also an appendage to the Castle of Dunster, and "lyeth (as Leland saith) betwixt our lady of Clyve and Dunester."<sup>z</sup>

The whole number of the houses within the parish is one hundred and ninety, and of inhabitants about eight hundred and fifty, many houses being void. But at the beginning of the present century there were nearly four hundred houses, and a large manufacture of kersey cloths, which is now almost wholly removed to other places.

The lands of this parish are generally pasture and meadow, and in goodness equal to most in the kingdom; particularly the vale east of the castle, and the rich common, containing five hundred acres, lying by the sea side. [The spot alluded to in the foregoing part of this account.]<sup>a</sup> This common is overflowed by the high spring tides, and is thereby rendered uncommonly fertile.

A small but rapid stream rising on Dunkery-Hill, and fed by several little rivulets, runs through a deep vale on the south side of the town and castle; and after passing under a stone bridge of three arches, and turning six grist mills, one oil, and two fulling mills, empties itself into the sea.

The coast in this parish is flat, and there are but few shells or sea weeds upon it. The beach is sand mixed with pebbles, and often muddy; but near Minehead it becomes fine and firm.

The priory at Dunster was annexed as a cell to the abbey of St. Peter at Bath, and was endowed by the Mohuns with the following lands and possessions, viz. the church of St. George at *Dunster*, and all the tithes of that vill; the whole vill of *Alcombe* with its appertenances, containing one hide; half the tithes of the demesnes of *Minehead*; the entire tithes of *Broadwood*, *Carhampton*, and *Newton*; half the tithes of *Brunfield*; and the entire tithes of *Stockland* and *Kilton*. Two fisheries; the one belonging to *Dunster*,

\* Lib. Domesday.

\* Efc.

v Lib. Domesday.

z Lel. Itin. ii. 100.

a See note, p. 9.



the other to *Carhampton*; and all the tithes of the mares at *More*, and the tenth pig at *Dunster*, *Carhampton*, and *Kilton*. A pasture called *Fogbelerisfersh*. The land of *Frekeford*, and one furlong of land in *Chaldevelle* within the manor of *Cutcombe*; and one furlong of land lying between *la Stenteville* and the mill of *Cogbrigge*. And also all the burgages in *Dunster*, together with the release of the suit of the hundred of *Minehead*. The church likewise of *Kilton*, with all its appertanances and tithes; and the tithes of the demesnes of *Screveton*, *Combe*, and *Codisford*; and all the land of *Kynevordisbam*, and the tithes of *Exford*. The land also of *Hanelbam*, which William de Mohun gave for the good of the soul of Ralph de Mohun, with three furlongs of land at *Nordecom*, free and quit from all service, in pure and perpetual alms.<sup>b</sup>

Peter de Bracton gave lands in Sparkshay to this cell, 18 Ric. II.<sup>c</sup>

The prior received from the rectory of *Cutcombe* a yearly pension of forty shillings and fourpence, and from the parsonage of *Stogumber* a pension of seven shillings.

This cell consisted of only four or five monks besides the prior, who was generally sent hither from *St. Peter's* at *Bath*.

Robert de Sutton was made prior Oct. 24, 1332.

William Bristow was prior 1411, and there were four monks with him.

John Henton, monk of *Bath*, was collated by Bishop *Stafford*, July 28, 1425, the priory of *Bath* being then void.

Thomas Brown was prior 1499.

The revenues of this priory were valued in 1444 at 30l. 13s. 4d. and in 1534 at 37l. 4s. 9½d.

The scite of the house, whereof some ruins still remain on the southeast side of the church-yard, was granted 34 Henry VIII. to *Humphrey Colles*.

The church is in the deanery of *Dunster*, to which it gives name. It was formerly vicarial; but is now a perpetual curacy in the gift of Lord *Stawel*. The Rev. George Henry Leigh is the present incumbent. In 1292 it was valued at twelve marks.<sup>d</sup>

There was an ordination of this vicarage made by bishop *Oliver King*; but this being by some means or other cancelled, a fresh one was instituted in 1512 by bishop *Hadrian de Castello*;<sup>e</sup> appointing that the vicar and his successors should have their commons and repasts, and a fire in winter time, with the prior of the cell of *Dunster*, and with the monks at their table, sitting next to the said monks, but never getting higher; at the sole charge and expence of the said cell. That he should likewise receive an annual stipend of four pounds from the prior's hands, and should have a chamber adjoining to the church-yard of the parish church of *Dunster*, together with a certain meadow, and a rent of two shillings for the use of certain vats belonging to the fulling business, as also the rent of two shillings for a certain house of ancient time belonging and appertaining to the vicars. And that he should likewise have all the contingent contributions of the

<sup>b</sup> Mon. Angl. i. 477.

<sup>c</sup> Pat. 18 Ric. II.

<sup>d</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

<sup>e</sup> Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.



parishioners for the rehearsing and publishing the bead-roll,<sup>f</sup> after the service of high mass in the church of Dunster every Lord's day.

The church, which was built by king Henry the seventh, is a large Gothick pile, one hundred and sixty-eight feet long, and fifty-five feet wide, being divided into two parts by the tower, which stands on four pillars in the centre. The part eastward of the tower was the original church of the priory, having been closed up from the parish church in the year 1499, in consequence of a dispute between the monks and the parishioners; when the matter being referred to the abbot of Glastonbury, Thomas Tremayle, and Doctor Thomas Gilbert, as arbitrators, it was agreed upon that the vicar and his successors should have their quire separate from the prior and monks, to be made, erected, and repaired, and if it should so need, to be rebuilt at the cost and expence of the parishioners, viz. in the nave of the church at the altar of St. James the apostle, which is situated on the south side of the door leading from the quire of the monks into the nave of the church.<sup>g</sup> This part of the church is now stript of all its furniture, and totally neglected; although it contains many fine monumental tombs and escutcheons of the Mohun and Luttrell families, now perishing with their owners in the dust, and exhibiting a strong rebuke to the vanity of human greatness.

The part westward of the tower is that now used for divine service, and consists of a nave, chancel, and north and south ailes. The tower is ninety feet high, embattled at the top, with low broken pinnacles at the corners, and contains a clock, chimes, and eight bells.

This part of the church contains no monument; but in the floor of the middle passage, on two brass plates, are inscriptions to the memories of divers of the families of Blackford and Sealy. And on a brass plate, beneath the effigies or portraitures of a man and woman, there is a memento to John and Agnes Wyther, A. D. 1497.

In the old part of the church above-mentioned, in a small chantry chapel adjoining to the chancel, is an ancient tomb, on which lie the mutilated remains of two effigies of the Mohuns. These were once of fine white alabaster, plenty of which is found on the neighbouring coast.

On the south side of the chancel there is a stately mural monument of various kinds of marble, whereon lie recumbent the effigies of one man in armour, and two women; another man in a kneeling attitude and in a religious vest. These are the memorials of the Luttrell family.<sup>h</sup> Under an arch below lies the figure of a domestick of the family in stone.

On the south wall stands a handsome monument of white and grey marble, inscribed with the name and character of Anne the wife of Francis Luttrell, and daughter and heir of Charles Stucley, of Plymouth, esq; who died Oct. 30, 1780, ætat. 21.

<sup>f</sup> A list of those persons, whether grandees, benefactors, or brethren, whose names were to be mentioned in the publick prayers of the church. This list or roll was read over to prepare the audience for such a commemoration.

<sup>g</sup> Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

<sup>h</sup> See their descent, p. 10.



In the chancel is a large vault belonging to the same family, in which are nineteen coffins, most of them charged with inscriptions.

Between two arches in the church-yard lies an effigy of one of the Everards, a family set up by the Mohuns, of whom they held lands in Carhampton and Dunster, by the service of defending a certain part of the castle.

The christenings in this parish are on an average twenty-one; the burials twenty-two.

## E X F O R D.

THE river Ex, rising in the wilds westward, ere it reaches the ancient city of Exeter, which owes its appellation thereto, gives name to divers places of inferior note within the limits of this county. Among these is Exford, situated about four miles distant from its source, twelve miles south from Dunster, and twenty-five south-west from Taunton, in a fertile vale, furrounded by bleak and dreary moors. The environs for many miles were formerly a forest called Exmoor, now a wild waste, intersected by deep winding vallies and romantick hollows.

26 Edw. I. a commission was issued by the king to Malcoline de Harleigh and John de Wrotesleigh, to make a perambulation of this forest, who chose Sir Baldric de Nonynton, and Sir Hugh de Popham, knights, in the presence of Peter de Hamme, deputy of Sabina Peche, keeper of the forest, Gilbert de la Putte, verdurer, and others, to assist in making the survey, which was as follows: From a certain place called *Cornefyete* along a certain road between the king's demesne and the fee of William de Kytenore, to the stones called *Fistones*; and so going down by a certain duct called *Lillecumbe* to *Ore* water; and thence going down on the further side of the heath ground, to a mountain called *Blakebergh*; thence to *Osmundebeargh* hill; and thence to a place called *Spracombebeved*; and thence by a certain duct to *Ex* water; and so going up by an old ditch to a stone called *Radston*; and thence between the fee of John Mohun and the fee of the abbot of Neth, to a ford which is called *Reddeford*; and so ascending by the heath directly to a place called *Schepecumbebeved*, as far as a stone known by the name of *Deresmarke*; and thence going along beyond the heath, between the King's demesne and the fee of the abbot of Neth, to a place called *Stonchiste*; and so going down to a place in the water of *Bergbel*, where the water of *Schureburn* runs into the water of *Bergbel*, which place is called *Schureburneffete*; and thence on the other side the heath directly to a stone called *Hockleston*; and so going down to a ford called *Wylleneford*, in the water of *Dumokebroke*, on the confines of the counties of Somerset and Devon, to *Cornefyete*, the place where the survey was begun."

\* Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.



The bailiwick of this forest was usually held by people of distinction. In the time of Hen. III. it was held by William de Placetis, by the service of paying to the King four heifers, and a young bull, or for each of them ten pence.<sup>b</sup>

The office of forester continued for many years afterwards in the family of Peche,<sup>c</sup> and is now held of the crown by Sir Thomas Acland, bart.

As the only produce of this wild tract is pasturage, it is principally stocked with sheep, and a small breed of horses and cattle from the adjoining parishes. There are a few wild deer; but these are more numerous on the adjacent commons, and the neighbouring woods contain a great many of this sort of animal. Many curious plants and flowers flourish here, and in the neighbouring country; particularly the erica and the hawkweed; the digitalis, blue scabius, and yellow tormentilla, intermixed with some scarce lichens and polypodies, which with their blended tints enliven the scene, and delight the traveller.

But here, upon this desolate spot, which perhaps never experienced the labours of the industrious husbandman; but has remained the same for a long succession of many thousand years; the eye of reflection sees stand uninterrupted a number of simple sepulchres of departed souls, whether of warriors, priests, or kings, it matters not; their names have long been buried with their persons in the dust of oblivion; and their memories have perished with their mouldering urns. A morsel of earth now damps in silence the *eclat* of noisy warriors; and the green turf serves as a sufficient shroud for kings!

In this neighbourhood also are many of those circular intrenchments, which in our maps are called castles; but from the inconsiderable size of some, and the situation of others, a doubt may be admitted whether they were ever intended for military purposes. They are assuredly vestiges of antiquity; and perhaps they might have been thrown up in the early ages of Druidism, for the celebration of religious rites and ceremonies; or in later days, for feats of activity or athletic exhibitions. Cow-Castle, indeed, situated on the river Barle, northwest from Withypool, is an exception to the foregoing observations.

This is the farthest extremity of the county westward towards Devonshire. There is a farm in the forest called *Symonsbatb*, remote from any other habitation, where runs a small river rising northwest, which hereabout joins the Ex, and has over it a wooden bridge. The western extremity of this forest is a point at right angles, called *Sadler's Stone*, near the head of the rivers Ex and Barle.

With regard to the property of this place in early times, it may be said, that it was, with most other contiguous territories, annexed to the great honour of Dunster. William de Moion had it.

"William himself holds AISSEFORDE. Domno held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one furlong. The arable is two bovates.<sup>d</sup> There is one villane, and fifteen acres of pasture. It was and is worth fifteen pence."

<sup>b</sup> Esc. 35 Hen. III.

<sup>c</sup> See the account of Neroche Forest, vol. i. p. 17.

<sup>d</sup> An oxgang of land; as much as one ox can till.

"William



“ William himself holds AISSEFORDE. Sarpo held it in the time of King Edward, “ and gelded for one furlong and a half. The arable is half a carucate; but now it is “ laid down to pasture, and pays a rent of twelve pence.”

How the family of Mohun parted with it does not appear; but it is evident that the principal estate in Exford belonged in very early times to the Cistercian abbey of Neth in Glamorganshire, founded about A. D. 1147 by Richard and Constantia de Grainville. The prior of that convent received out of this manor a yearly pension of fifty-five shillings.<sup>f</sup> The manor is still called *Monkham*, from the circumstance of its quondam monastick propriety, and now belongs to Hugh Vassef, esq; as does

ALMSWORTHY, of which manor the family of Durborough of Hethfield were lords for many generations.<sup>g</sup> In the time of Eliz. it belonged to Nicholas Bluet.<sup>h</sup>

There are two hamlets in this parish, viz. 1. EDGE CUT, situated half a mile west, and containing seven houses. 2. LOWER-MILL, one mile westward, containing six houses. The whole number of houses in the parish is sixty-three; inhabitants, three hundred and fifteen.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Dunster; and in 1292 was valued at ten marks.<sup>i</sup> The Rev. Mr. Cox is the present incumbent. The patronage was anciently appertenant to the manor of Eastbury, and vested in the family of Perceval, whose arms, viz. on a chief indented three crosses formée, were carved on the church porch here.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, and has lately in great part been rebuilt, stands on a little eminence, and is a good Gothick structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, and south aisle, all covered with tile. At the west end is a strong embattled tower, seventy feet high, containing four bells.

There are two inscriptions in the church; one to the memory of Mr. Robert Baker, who died April 25, 1730, aged 68; and another to William Gundry, who died the 12th of January 1703; and by his last will gave ten pounds to the poor of this parish, to remain for ever; the profits thereof to be distributed yearly unto such poor inhabitants as have no monthly relief.

A charity school was founded here by Mr. Cox, and Mrs. Musgrove, for teaching ten poor children to read, for each of whom the master was allowed two shillings a quarter.

About a mile and a half eastward of the church are the vestiges of some ancient iron works, in which tradition says much of the wood of Exmoor was consumed. Many of the old pits where the ore was dug still remain, and great quantities of the scoria are found about them.

The births in this parish are on an average nine; the burials five.

\* Lib. Domesday.      † Taxat. Temporal.      ‡ Etc.

‡ Terrar. Sydenham, MS.

† Taxat. Spiritual.



## L U C K H A M.

**T**HIS vill is pleasantly situated in a woody vale, three miles southwest from Minehead, and two east from Porlock. The parish contains about eighty-two houses, and nearly five hundred inhabitants. Thirty-eight of the houses form a straggling street by the church; the rest are in three hamlets, viz.

1. WEST-LUCKHAM, one mile and a half west, containing twelve houses.
2. HORNER, a romantick spot, situated in a deep hollow between lofty hills, eight houses. And,
3. DOVER-HAY, adjoining to the town of Porlock, twenty-four houses.

The lands are almost equally divided between tillage and grazing, and (except on the hills) are very good. The stone here, of which there is great plenty, contains some iron, and is veined with spar. Considerable quantities of pyrites are found here, and some lava; but few, if any fossils. Several springs rising on Dunkery-Hill, and in the forest of Exmoor, form a rivulet, which, passing through this parish under two stone bridges, empties itself into the sea at Boffington Point. Another stream has its source about a mile southeastward from the church. The inhabitants have a right of common on Dunkery-Hill. A narrow slip of land belonging to this parish extends quite down to the sea, dividing the parish of Porlock into two parts.

At the time of the Conquest, Luckham was divided into two distinct parcels; the one belonging to Ralph de Limesi, the other to Odo the son of Gamelin. The former is thus described:

“Ralph himself holds LOCUMBE. Queen Eddida held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides. The arable is eight carucates. In demesne are three carucates, and two servants, and eighteen villanes, and six cottagers with four ploughs. There are five acres of meadow, and fifty acres of wood. Pasture one mile in length, and half a mile in breadth. It was worth three pounds, now four pounds.”

The other parcel has the following description:

“Odo the son of Gamelin holds of the king LOCUMBE. Vitalis of him. Fitel held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is six carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and two servants, and eight villanes, and one cottager, with two ploughs and a half. There are two acres of meadow, and twelve acres of wood, and fifty acres of pasture. It was formerly and is now worth forty shillings.”\*

In the time of Edward I. these parcels of land, being united, belonged to Sir Baldric de Nonington, a person very eminent in his days, and one who was entrusted with many important publick offices. He was likewise possessed of the manor of Lillisdon, and many other estates in this county; and died 3 Edw. II. leaving Margery, the wife of Robert de Pudele, his daughter and heir. The successors of this Robert de Pudele assumed the name of Luccombe from this place of their habitation. 13 Edw. II. John

\* Lib. Domesday.



de Luccombe died seized of this manor, and in the inquisition taken after his decease is certified to have held it of the king in capite by the service of three knight's fees.<sup>1</sup> To him succeeded Hugh de Luccombe his son and heir; but he held not this manor long, being dead 16 Edw. II.<sup>m</sup> and leaving one son John of the age of one year to succeed him in the estates. To which John succeeded another Hugh, and to him John de Luccombe: which John is found to hold this manor of the King, as of the honour of Pinkney, by the service of four knight's fees. He died 8 Edw. III. leaving no issue, whereupon his sister Elizabeth, the wife of Oliver de St. John, became heir to his possessions. This Oliver was succeeded by Henry St. John, who died seized of Luccombe 8 Henry IV. leaving Edward his son and heir. After this family, the manor was possessed by that of Arundel. 22 Edw. IV. Joan the relict of Nicholas Arundel, of Treryse, died seized thereof, together with the advowson of the church, and the manor and advowson of Selworthy, leaving Robert Arundel her cousin and heir of the age of fifteen years. The family of Arundel continued in possession of this manor, and many other contiguous estates, for many generations; but it is now the property of Frederick Thomas Wentworth, esq.

The manors of *West-Luckham*, *Wichanger*, and *Dover-Hay*, passed nearly in the same manner as that above described. The last-mentioned hamlet is thus surveyed in Domesday Book:

"Alric holds of Roger [de Curcelle] DOURI. Eddeve held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one virgate of land. The arable is one carucate. There are two villanes, with one cottager. It is worth eight shillings."<sup>m</sup>

The church of Luckham is a rectory in the deanery of Dunster, and is appendant to the manor. The Rev. Mr. Gould is the present incumbent. In the taxation of 1292 it is valued at twelve marks.<sup>o</sup> The church of Dover is likewise included in the same taxation, being rated at twelve marks and a half.<sup>p</sup>

The church is dedicated to St. Mary. It is a handsome Gothick structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, and south aisle, covered with tile. At the west end is an embattled tower, eighty-two feet high, with a clock and five bells.

Against the north wall of the chancel is a stone monument with this inscription:

"Non procul hinc sub marmore congenito, sepultum jacet corpus Henrici Byam, ex antiquissimâ Byamorum familiâ oriundi; sacro-sanctæ Theologiæ Doctoris insignissimi, hujus Ecclesiæ et proximæ Selworthianæ Rectoris, Pastorisque vigilantissimi; Ecclesiæ Cathedralis Exoniensis Canonici, Ecclesiæque Wellensis Prebendarii; Serenissimæ Majestatis Caroli secundi Regis capellani et concionatoris ordinarii, necnon ejusdem, (sæviente illâ tyrannide, et semper execrandâ fanaticorum rebellione) terræ marique comitis, exulisque simul. Ex meliore luto ejus constructum corpus post annos tandem octoginta et novem, anno salutis millesimo sexcentesimo sexagesimo nono, morti non triumphanti quam invitanti placide cessit. Sed extat adhuc viri hujus optimi celebrius multo hoc, et ornatiûs monumentum, non marmore perituro, sed typis exaratum perpetuis, scripta; scilicet ejus plane divina; ubi animi vires, et summum

<sup>1</sup> Efc.

<sup>m</sup> Ibid.

<sup>n</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>o</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

<sup>p</sup> Ibid.



ejus ingenii acumen, intueberis simul et miraberis. Lugubrem hunc lapidem honoris et reverentiæ indicem posuit filius ejus obsequentissimus Franciscus Byam: Instauratum a Mariâ et Ceciliâ Wood, Anno Dom. 1713."

Arms; *Argent*, three boars' heads erased *vert*.

This Henry Byam was the son of Laurence Byam of this parish, and born here Aug. 31, 1580. He was sent to the university of Oxford in 1597, and in 1612, commencing bachelor of divinity, returned to Somersetshire, and succeeded his father in this living, and William Fleet in that of Selworthy. In 1636 he became prebendary of Exeter. During the time of the Oliverian perturbations, he was a faithful adherent to the royal cause, raising both men and horse for Charles II. and engaging his five sons (four of whom were captains) in the service of his Majesty. For this cause he was severely pointed at by the opposite party, who imprisoned and otherwise persecuted him and his family, of whom his wife and daughter perished at sea in their attempt to avoid the cruelties of the enemy by flight into Wales. After the restoration he was made canon of Exeter, and prebendary of Wells, and was universally esteemed for his sanctity of life, his knowledge of literature, his loyalty to his sovereign, and his charity to his fellow-creatures. His sermons were published by Hamnet Ward, M. D. vicar of Sturminster-Newton Castle in Dorsetshire, who also composed the inscription on his tomb.

On the same wall is a marble monument to the memory of the Rev. Thomas Stawell, rector of this parish forty-three years. He died Dec. 22, 1782, aged 84. Elizabeth his wife died Aug. 3, 1781, aged 73.

In the south aisle there is a mural monument of stone to the memory of Richard Wroth, gent. who died Aug. 17, 1637. To Mary his wife, and Richard their son.

There is likewise in this aisle an ancient stone tomb, but without any legible inscription.

An old cross stands in the church-yard, with a shaft remaining, and three rows of steps.

## L U X B O R O U G H

**I**S a small parish four miles south from Dunster, and about nineteen northwest from Taunton, containing fifty houses; twenty-two of which are farms; the rest mostly mean mud-walled cottages, covered with thatch. Of these houses twelve form a hamlet called POOLTOWN, one mile westward from the church; the rest are dispersed in the village of Luxborough. The farms are small, and the lands about equally divided between tillage and pasture. A rivulet rising near Treborough, joined by several others springing on the hills towards the west, turn a grist-mill at Pooltown, and two more in this parish. These little rivers contain trout and eels; and one of them empties itself into the Dunster river; the other into the sea at Watchet.

This



This place is called in the Conqueror's survey *Lolochesberie*, and belonged to William de Mohun:

"Rannulf holds LOLOCHESBERIE. Two thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is four carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and three servants, and six villanes, and three cottagers, with three ploughs. There are one hundred acres of pasture, and thirty acres of wood. It is worth twenty shillings."

"Nigel holds of William Lolochesberie. Brismar held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is three carucates. There are two acres of meadow, and one hundred acres of pasture, and thirty acres of wood. It was and is worth fifteen shillings."<sup>a</sup>

In the time of Henry II. William Fitz-Everard held a knight's fee in Luxborough of Reginald de Mohun, lord of Dunster-Castle, to which castle and honour this manor, and a great many others in this neighbourhood, were always subservient. The family of Everard flourished here for many ages, and gave name to the manor.<sup>b</sup> The last of them in the reign of Charles I. sold it to Sir John Wyndham, knight, from whom it has descended to the Earl of Egremont the present possessor.

In the inquisition taken after the decease of John de Mohun, 14 Edward I. reciting the knights fees holden by him in this county, the abbot of Clive and Maurice de Luxborough are certified to hold of the said John one knight's fee in Luksborough-Pyket; and Gilbert de la Putte the same in Luksborough-Kyne;<sup>c</sup> both of them being manors within this parish so denominated from their ancient owners.

Contiguous hereto is a manor called LANGHAM, which is thus noticed in the old Norman record:

"Three foldiers hold of William [de Mohun] LANGHAM. Three thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is six carucates. In demesne are three carucates, with one servant, and five villanes, and eight cottagers, with three ploughs and a half. There is a mill of three shillings rent, and four acres of meadow, and sixty acres of pasture, and thirty-six acres of wood. It was and is worth thirty shillings."<sup>d</sup>

It afterwards was held by the families of Tort and Botville, from whom it derived the appellation of Langham-Tort, and Langham-Botville. 31 Henry VI. Thomas Whalesborough, cousin and heir of Simon Raleigh of Nettlecombe, is found to release to William Gascoigne and others, all his right in Pole, Langham-Tort, and Langham-Botville in this parish, and in Bardeslegh in the parish of Carhampton.<sup>e</sup> But the manor in the same reign was in the possession of the family of Dodisham, and afterwards in that of Pym, and is now the property of Sir Philip Hales, bart. The Rev. Chancellor Nutcombe has also a manor in Luxborough.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domeſday.

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Feod.

<sup>c</sup> Leland tells us the Everards were ſet up by the Mohuns, Itin. ii. 101.

<sup>d</sup> Inq. poſt mort. 14 Edw. I.

<sup>e</sup> Lib. Domeſday.

<sup>f</sup> Rot. Clauſ. 31 Hen. VI.



The living of Luxborough (which is a vicarage) has always been annexed to that of Cutcombe, and is rated with it in Pope Nicholas's taxation at ten marks.<sup>7</sup> These livings were appropriated to the priory of Brewton. The Rev. Mr. Wilkins is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and consists of one aisle and chancel, having a tower at the west end, with four bells.

This church has no monument; but on the floor are the following inscriptions:

"Here lyeth the body of Ann the wife of Robert Siderfin, of Croydon, esq; and daughter of Sir John Wittewronge, of Rothamsted in the county of Hertford, bart. who died May 5, 1708. *In spe beatæ resurrectionis.*" Arms: three cups, *Siderfin*; impaling Bendy of six, on a chief a bar indented, *Wittewronge*.

"Here lyeth the body of Thomas Darch, of this parish, gent. who died August 12, 1734, aged 68. Sarah relict of the said Thomas survived her husband nearly twenty-eight years: She was a father to the poor, and eminent for the practice of virtue and true religion. She died May 24, 1762, aged 74. The memory of the just is blessed."

John How, ancestor to the Lords Chedworth, by his will bearing date March 26, 1529, bequeathed to the churchwardens of this parish the sum of eighteen-pence a year for ever, to maintain a taper of wax to burn within this church during all manner of divine service. Likewise the sum of six shillings and eight-pence to the church, to be expended at the discretion of the parish officers.<sup>8</sup>

The christenings in this parish are on an average nine, the burials six.

<sup>7</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

<sup>8</sup> Ex Regist. Thower. in Cur. prærog. Cantuar.

## M I N E H E A D

(Anciently written MANHEVE, MUNHEVED, and MINEHEVED)

**I**S a sea-port and borough town, situated on the Bristol Channel, twenty-five miles west from Bridgwater, and sixty-five from the city of Bath. The town is divided into three parts, which form a triangle of about two thirds of a mile on each side.

1. *The Upper Town*, composed of very irregular streets and mean buildings, stands on the eastern slope of a vast hill, called *Greenaleigh*, or Minehead Point.

2. *The Lower, or Middle Town*, half a mile southeast from the beach. And,

3. *Quay Town* by the water's edge, under the brow of the point or headland, which is about seven hundred feet high, and finely cultivated on the land side to the very top; but next the sea it is a steep rugged cliff, intermixed with shrubs and bushes; the rocks hanging a prodigious height above the tops of the houses. To the west of the point the shore is elevated to an immense height; the next hill being eight hundred and six, and



and the next (called *Bratton-Hill*) eight hundred and sixty-four feet high, according to an accurate measurement which has been lately taken.

From two surveys made in the years 1705 and 1783, of the number of houses and inhabitants within this town, it appears that a great declension has taken place.

		1705.		1783.	
		Houses.	Inhabitants.	Houses.	Inhabitants.
Higher town	-	124	638	98	382
Lower town	-	130	710	141	520
Quay town	-	64	452	45	226
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		318	1800	284	1128

Decrease of houses 34, and of inhabitants 672; many of the houses still remaining being now uninhabited, and falling fast to ruin.

It was given by King William the Conqueror to William de Mohun, and as his property, is thus accounted for in the general survey:

“ William himself holds MANEHEVE. Algar held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is twelve carucates. In demesne are three carucates, and twelve servants, and twenty-seven villanes, and twenty-two cottagers, with ten ploughs. There is a mill of three shillings rent, and twelve acres of meadow, and twenty-four acres of wood. Pasture four miles in length, and two miles in breadth, When he received it, it was worth one hundred shillings, now six pounds.”

From this time the manor of Minehead passed in the same way as that of Dunster, from the Mohuns to the Luttrells; and is now the possession of John Fownes Luttrell, esq; of Dunster Castle.

This town was incorporated by Queen Elizabeth, and endowed with great privileges. It was formerly governed by a portreeve; but now by two constables, chosen annually at the court-leet of the lord of the manor. The quay however being neglected, and the trade of the port declining, this place was sinking very rapidly into decay, when the Luttrells obtained of King William III. a statute for recovering the port, and keeping it in proper repair, by which they were to have the profits thereof for thirty-six years; which profits were estimated at about two hundred pounds per annum. In consequence of a subsequent act, confirming the former, a new head was built to the quay, and the pier put into repair. By which means the harbour was rendered safe for ships to enter and ride in.<sup>b</sup>

About the beginning of the present century upwards of forty vessels were employed to Ireland. Many others were engaged in the West-India, Virginia, and the Straits trade; and four thousand barrels of herrings were at that time shipped here annually for the Mediterranean. But all this is now nearly at an end; the trade is lost; the herrings have left the coast; and there are at present only five or six vessels belonging to the port.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> On a brass plate fixed up at the end of the old quay is this inscription:—“ This Key was first founded and built by Geo. Luttrell, esq; in the year 1616, and hath been kept in repair at the cost and charges of that family; and also this new work is done by the command and cost of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Colonel Francis Luttrell, lord of the manor of Minehead, Anno Domini 1682.”



But notwithstanding the present low state of commerce in this town, the following account of its former trade will evince it to have been very considerable.

In the time of Charles II. and Queen Anne, several rates and subsidies on the importation of bay and woollen yarn were made payable here, amounting in the whole to nine shillings and six-pence per hundred weight; which continued till the year 1740; at which time, complaints having been made that large quantities of wool had been run from Ireland to France, as a means to prevent those measures in future, all the said duty was taken off. But notwithstanding this great encouragement to Irish industry, there was a few years after so considerable a surplus of raw wool in Ireland, that by taking a period of eight years (from 1745 to 1754) there was imported here 179,459 stones of wool, which left a local profit to this town of 4790*l.* viz.

Freight	-	-	2990	} 4790 <i>l.</i> which with fundry other contingent advantages may on an average be fairly computed at 625 <i>l.</i> per annum benefit to this town.
Hauledge from ships	-	150		
Quay duties	-	400		
Packers and porters	-	450		
Agency and commission		800		

The imports of wool from Ireland to this period are as under:

	Stone.		Stone.
In 1718	- - - - 31269	In 1734	- - - - 40522
1721	- - - - 33388	1736	- - - - 12795
1722	- - - - 64344	1740	- - - - 6689
1733	- - - - 15992		

The following is a just account of the other imports here for two periods of four years each, with a calculation of the value of the several commodities:

First period, from 1758 to 1763.

	1759.	1760.	1761.	1762.
	<i>l.</i> <i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>l.</i> <i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>l.</i> <i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>	<i>l.</i> <i>s.</i> <i>d.</i>
Bay yarn	656 0 0	888 5 0	537 3 4	175 11 6
Woollen yarn	17 9 6	106 9 0	6 10 0	
Linen cloth	5409 13 6	9661 17 6	7656 1 6	12654 13 6
Lamb skins		32 11 0		
Slink ditto		97 2 6		
Kid skins	12 7 6	47 5 0		
Sheep and goat skins		45 1 6		
Ox and cow hides		637 10 0	927 0 0	288 15 0
Calf skins	170 18 0	883 10 0	660 0 0	329 5 0
Butter	35 0 0		58 8 9	
Tallow	16 5 6	59 10 0		
Hogs lard		187 4 0	33 3 0	
Pork	13 17 0		21 12 6	
Bacon	20 14 0			
Bristles dressed and undressed			102 0 0	



Second period, from 1774 to 1779.

	1775.		1776.		1777.		1778	
	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.
Bay yarn - - - - -	133	17 3 0	138	79 10 0	175	34 12 0	101	8 1 0
Woollen yarn - - - - -							43	4 0
Linen cloth - - - - -	114	53 0 6	44	27 18 6	31	38 10 6	44	09 17 0
Lamb skins - - - - -			177	18 0	288	1 0	251	0 0
Slink ditto - - - - -			205	7 6	254	19 6	287	7 6
Kid skins - - - - -			9	12 6	207	7 6	87	16 9
Sheep and goat skins - -								
Ox and cow hides - - -	32	78 0 0	60	87 8 0	17	35 0 0	18	62 10 0
Calf skins - - - - -	164	11 0	72	0 0	50	0 0	108	10 0
Butter - - - - -	158	0 0	264	14 6	270	1 0	274	13 0
Tallow - - - - -					107	6 0		
Hog's lard - - - - -					11	9 6		
Pork - - - - -	12	0 0			4	7 0	2	8 0
Bacon - - - - -			8	0 0			77	0 0
Bristles dressed and undressed								

The exports for the same periods are not considerable here, as the vessels on the Irish trade mostly load coals to carry out; the most considerable article of export has been oak-bark, valued at 2026l. 10s. The other articles of export in the same periods have been chiefly grain, amounting to 1743l. 15s.

The bringing over live cattle from Ireland was once a considerable trade here, before an act passed in the time of Charles II. to prohibit it, by which act the cattle became forfeited, one half to the informer, the other to the parish poor.

But so little were the wants of the poor, or so considerable were the forfeitures, that in the year 1675 an accumulated surplus sum of about five hundred pounds was in hand, and then laid out in the purchase of a freehold estate in the parish of Ottery St. Mary; which estate still retains the name of the Cow-Lands.

At the entrance of the quay is a convenient custom-house, with a regular establishment of officers.

The coast is composed of sand and round pebbles; in some parts a little muddy, and abounding with the common Bladder-fucus, which is burnt into kelp for the Bristol market. The tide ebbs near a mile from the high-water mark; and great quantities of laver (sea-liverwort) is gathered from the rocks, and sent to Bath, Bristol, Exeter, and London.

On the rocks at low water is a species of limpet, which contains a liquor very curious for marking fine linen; the process is as follows: Lay the limpet with its mouth downward on some solid body, and break it with a smart stroke of a hammer, but not so as to bruise the fish. When the shell is picked off, there will appear a white vein lying transversely in a little furrow next the head of the fish, which may be taken out by a bodkin



bodkin or any other pointed instrument. The letters or figures made with this liquor on linen will presently appear of a light green colour, and if placed in the sun will change into the following colours: if in winter about noon, if in summer, an hour or two after sun-rising, and so much before setting; for in the heat of the day in summer it will come on so fast, that the succession of each colour will scarcely be distinguished. Next to the first light green, it will appear of a deep green, and in a few minutes change to a full sea-green; after which, in a few minutes more, it will alter to a blue; then to a purplish red: after which, lying an hour or two, (if the sun shines) it will be of a deep purple red, beyond which the sun does no more. But this last beautiful colour, after washing in scalding water and soap, will, on being laid out to dry, be a fair bright crimson, which will abide all future washing. This species of limpets are, some red, others white, black, yellow, brown, and sand-colour; and some are striped with white and brown parallel lines.

On the shore is found a stony mass variegated with dark brown, and a glossy talk. Between the town and Dunster, on the beach, several hundred yards below high-water-mark, the roots of many large trees are seen, four or five inches above the surface of the sand. They are become very soft, crumble easily with the fingers, and are almost black; but the texture of the wood is very perfect, and the interior parts retain their colour. But, what is very singular, this old wood, when broken parallel to the grain, contains a number of shells and oak-leaves within its very substance. The shells are of the dottle kind, and in a semi-fossil state; but no recent shells of this kind are now found on this part of the coast.

The fish common to this coast are, shrimps, prawns, crabs, muscles, soles, flounders, skait, cuttle and dog-fish, ray, star-fish, porpuses, and sometimes sharks. The shells found here are, common patellæ [limpets] trochi, nerites, common whelks, and buccinums, with some small venus and tellini. The pebbles are mostly large, and washed up by strong tides from the Welsh coast; great quantities of them are burned into lime, which is the principal manure used by the farmers in this neighbourhood.

A market is held here on Wednesdays, and a chartered fair for pedlary, &c. on the Wednesday in Whitfun-week. A small woollen manufacture is still carried on here. The arms of the town were a ship under sail, and a wool-pack, emblematical of its pristine trade.

The country on the land side of this town is very picturesque and beautiful, being a continued succession of lofty hills and rich vales, finely contrasted. A stream rising on Bratton-hill runs through the lower town, and turns one fulling, and two grist mills. This stream contains fine trout. The landholders have a right of commonage on the hills, which abound with a very hard liver-coloured stone, with red and white veins, and strongly impregnated with iron. The climate is mild, and by the sea-breezes the air is rendered so salubrious, that vegetation is earlier by near a month than in the inland parts of the county. Myrtles thrive, though exposed all winter in the open air.

Fronting the old market-place is an alms-house, containing eleven dwellings, built by Robert Quirck. On a brass plate over the door is this inscription:

“ Robert



“ Robert Quirck, sonne of James Quirck, built this house Anno 1630, and doth give it to the use of the poore of this parish for ever. And for better maintenance I do give my two inner cellers at the inner end of the key; and cursed be that man that shall convert it to any other use than to the use of the poore, 1630.” Below is a ship engraved, and underneath,

“ God’s Providence

“ Is my Inheritance. R. Q.”

The following is an extract from Robert Quirck’s will, dated July 4, 1648:

“ And whereas it hath pleased God that I have built an alms-house in the town of Minehead aforesaid, containing several dwelling-houses, I do give the said houses unto the poor of the town of Minehead for ever; but the ordering of the said houses I leave to my son Robert Quirck, and to the name of the Quirckes for ever; and for want of the name of the Quirckes, then to the overseers of the poor of the parish of Minehead for ever.

“ Item, I give unto my said alms-houses two hundred pounds, to be bestowed in land for the better relief and reparation of them.

“ Item, I do give unto my said alms-houses my two inner cellars at the key of Minehead aforesaid, to be let out for rent to him that will give most for them; and the cellars and alms-houses being repaired, my will is, that the money which remaineth shall be equally divided among the poor people dwelling in the said alms-houses twice a year.”

The Hon. Col. Alexander Luttrell, who died Sept. 22, 1711, gave to the poor of this parish fifty pounds; the interest thereof to be distributed yearly to poor persons not receiving alms of the parish.

Joan the wife of the Rev. Mr. Moggridge, vicar of this church, gave to eight poor widows, who receive no alms, the yearly interest of 20l. to be distributed at Christmas.

Mr. George Sullivan, of Minehead, maltster, who died Nov. 3, 1755, gave one hundred pounds, the interest thereof to be paid to Joan Oxmead and Sarah Leigh, widows, during their lives, and after their deaths, to sixteen aged weak people of this parish, not receiving alms, on the first of January in every year for ever.

There are three hamlets in this parish of the names of BRATTON, PERITON, and HINDON. The first of these is thus described in the book called Domesday-book:

“ Roger holds of William [de Mohun] BRATONE. Aluric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three virgates of land. The arable is four carucates. In demesne are two carucates, with one servant, and two villanes, and four cottagers, with two ploughs. There are two acres of meadow, and one hundred acres of pasture. It was formerly worth five shillings; now thirty shillings.

This place gave name to a family so early as the reign of Henry II. when Robert de Brattone held one knight’s fee here of William de Mohun,<sup>d</sup> and bore on his seal a chief

<sup>d</sup> Lib. nig. Scac. i. 92.

indented



indented three mullets pierced.<sup>e</sup> His successor was Henry de Bracton or Bratton, an eminent lawyer and justice itinerant in the time of Hen. III. who lies buried in the parish church here, between the chancel and north aisle, under an arch embellished with Gothick ornaments, and his effigy vested in long robes. His successors were Thomas and Peter de Bratton, which last died 16 Ric. II. then seized of the manor of Bratton, a third part of the manor of Langridge; lands in Bratton, Yarnor, Ven, Periton, and Dunster; and was succeeded by Thomas de Bratton his son and heir, at the time of his father's decease of the age of fifteen years.<sup>f</sup> At what time this Thomas died is not clear; but a son of his own name is certified to have died 38 Henry VI. seized of the manor of Biddlecombe, and the manor of Bratton, which he held of James Luttrell, esq; and lands and tenements in Wichangre in the parish of Luccombe, and in Wydon, Allerford, and Periton, in the parish of Minehead.<sup>g</sup> To him succeeded John de Bratton, whose son and heir was named Simon, and left issue John de Bratton, who died 6 Edw. IV. leaving John his son and heir of the age of four years. After this the name became extinct, and the manor passed through a variety of proprietors to Peter Lord King.

The living of Minehead is vicarial, lies in the deanery of Dunster, and was rated in 1292 at ten marks.<sup>h</sup> The lord of the manor is patron; and the present incumbent the Rev. Alexander Luttrell. It was appropriated to the priory of Brewton.

The church stands in the upper town, and is a large handsome structure, one hundred and sixteen feet long, and forty-two feet wide, consisting of a nave, chancel, north aisle, and vestry room. A well-built embattled tower at the west end, ninety feet in height, contains a clock, chimes, and five bells.

Within an iron railing at the east end of the north aisle is an elegant statue of Queen Anne, in white alabaster, on a pedestal four feet high, holding the globe and scepter. Thereon is this inscription:—"This statue was given by Sir Jacob Banks,<sup>i</sup> and erected in 1719. He represented this borough in parliament sixteen years, and during this time was a benefactor to it on all occasions."

On a black frame in the aisle is the following memorial:

"Near this place lie the bodies of five children of the late Rev. Mr. William Moggridge, who was vicar of Minehead fifty-three years, and rector of Porlock twenty-nine years. He died March 5, 1763, in the eighty-second year of his age, and was buried in Porlock chancel."

On a flat stone in the chancel floor,

"Here resteth the body of James Quircke, mariner, who deceased Feb. 20, 1613, who purchased the fee farm of the moyste of this rectori."

"Here resteth the body of Robert Quirck, mariner, the sone of James Quirck; he dyed the 18th of March 1649."

"Here lyeth the body of Robert Quirck, son of John Quirck of Hindon, who departed this life the 1st of April, 1712, aged 19 years."

<sup>e</sup> Seals from old Deeds.

<sup>f</sup> Esc.

<sup>g</sup> Ibid.

<sup>h</sup> Taxat. spiritual.

<sup>i</sup> Of him see Hutchins's Dorsetshire, vol. ii. p. 413.

"Here



On a brass plate :----“ Here lyeth the body of John Quirck, of Hindon, who departed this life Aug. 10, 1697, aged 44. Also of John Quirck his son, who departed this life Dec. 13, 1730, aged 32.”

On another brass plate :----“ Here lyeth the body of James Quirck, of this parish, mariner, who departed this life April 4, 1711, aged 53 years.-----Here also lyeth the body of Izott his wife, who departed this life Nov. 7, 1724, aged 58.”

In the middle of the church-yard is an old stone cross nearly entire, with four rows of steps.

O A R E,

**A** Parish situated at the farthest extremity of the county, westward, being twelve miles west from Minehead, and two from the Bristol Channel.

The country here is very wild and romantick, and the parish lies in a profound vale, environed with lofty hills. The parish is small, the whole being rated at only two hundred pounds *per annum*. The lands are mostly sheep-walks; but in the vallies and lower slopes there is a little arable, and some fine meads, the latter worth nearly forty shillings an acre. Several springs rising in the hills to the east and south form a small stream, which runs through the vale by the church, over a rocky channel, and discharges itself into the sea at Moleshead-bridge to the west of Foreland-Point.

At the time of the Conquest the manor of Oure, then called *Are*, belonged to Ralph de Pomerai, and is thus surveyed:

“ Ralph himself holds ARE. Edric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is six carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and four servants, and seven villanes, and five cottagers, with four ploughs. There are two acres of meadow, and fifteen acres of wood. Pasture two miles in length, and one in breadth. It is worth thirty shillings. This manor pays by custom twelve sheep a year to Carentone, a manor of the King. Ralph retains this custom.”<sup>k</sup>

This Ralph de Pomerai was one of the Conqueror's attendants, and was rewarded for his services with many manors, particularly in the county of Devon, where his posterity were seated, at a place called from them *Bury-Pomerai*, and where they continued till the time of Edward VI. when Sir Thomas Pomerai, knt. sold it to Edward Seymour Duke of Somerset.<sup>l</sup> They had parted with this manor long before, and it seems to have been the inheritance of a family of its name. John de Auro [or Ore] occurs witness to a charter of the date of 1256, and William de Aure to another deed 8 Edw. II.<sup>m</sup> A feudary rent or acknowledgment is paid hence to Dunster Castle.

<sup>k</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>l</sup> Sir W. Pole's Survey of Devon, MS.

<sup>m</sup> Cart. Antiq.



36 Henry VIII. lands here were granted to Francis Byam.<sup>n</sup> At present the manor is divided between Mr. Nicholas Snow, and the representatives of the late John Short, esq.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Dunster, and in the gift of Mr. Nicholas Snow afore said. The Rev. Mr. Clare is the present incumbent.

The church is a small building of one pace, having a tower with one bell.

On the north wall of the nave is a small mural monument, inscribed to the memory of several of the family of Spurrier, who were formerly patrons of the benefice.

<sup>n</sup> MS. Sydenham.

## P O R L O C K

**I**S a small sea-port town six miles west from Minehead, and thirty-three west from Bridgwater; bounded on the north and north-west by the Channel, on the east by Selworthy and Luccombe, on the south by Stoke-Pero, and on the west by Culbone. A narrow slip of the parish of Luccombe runs across that of Porlock quite down to the sea, dividing it in two; so that the inhabitants of the east part cannot go to their own church without crossing the parish of Luccombe.

This whole parish, including hamlets, contains about one hundred and ten houses, and nearly six hundred inhabitants. Most of the houses form two mean straggling streets near the church, and are chiefly built of rough stone, or mud walls, two stories high, and thatched, with the backs of the chimnies projecting from the fronts into the streets.

The situation of the town is finely romantick, being nearly surrounded on all sides, except toward the sea, by steep and lofty hills, intersected by deep vales and hollow glens. Some of the hills are beautifully wooded, and contain numbers of wild deer. The vallies between these hills are very deep and picturesque; the sides being steep, scared with wild rocks, and patched with woods and forest shrubs. Some of the vallies, however, are well cultivated, and studded with villages, or single farms and cottages, although agriculture here is very imperfectly understood. Most of the roads and fields are so steep, that no carriages of any kind can be used; all the crops are therefore carried in with crooks on horses, and the manure in wooden pots called doffels. Many of the poor are employed in spinning yarn for the Dunster manufactory.

A market by royal licence was formerly held here every Thursday; but there are now only three markets in a year; one at Michaelmas, which is the great market, and two in the spring, all for cattle. In the street is an ancient market cross.

At the west corner of the bay, which forms a concave of near three miles from point to point, the quay is situated, and there is a small pier; three or four vessels belong to the



the harbour, and are usually employed in fetching coals and lime from Wales. In the centre of the bay is a decoy for catching wild fowl.<sup>a</sup>

The eastern corner presents a grand scene of craggy and romantick rocks, called *Hardstone*, *Hartland*, or *Bossington-Point*. Part of these rocks are insulated at high water, and the rest rise in the boldest manner from one hundred to more than three hundred feet high. In spring tides, when the wind sets in strong from the west, the fury of the sea is here so violent, that it has washed vast caverns in the solid rock, some of which are eighty feet within the rock, sixty wide, and near one hundred high. On the coming in of the tide in a storm, the echoes, and the dashing of the waves in these caverns, are astonishingly tremendous. At low water the shore exhibits a striking scene of rocky fragments, which have from time to time been washed from the cliffs above, and lie widely scattered, or piled on each other, in wild magnificence. The cliffs on the east side of this point hang over the beach with awful sublimity and grandeur. These rocks are interspersed with metallic veins, spar, crystals like the Cornish, copperas, and a small quantity of silver ore.

In many of the roads through this parish, pyrites are frequently found in large lumps; the rocks are impregnated with iron ore; and there is also some copper, but not in a sufficient quantity for working.

The channel is here about nine leagues over, and the greater part of South-Wales forms a beautiful rising landscape beyond it.

The Saxons gave this place the expressive title of *Popt-Locan*, which signifies an inclosed bay or station for ships; and under this name it twice occurs in the annals of that warlike people.

In the year 918, those turbulent visitors of England, the Danes, having, under the command of the Earls *Ohtor* and *Rboald*, entered the Severn, and spread ruin and devastation along the opposite coasts of Wales, directed their course to Somersetshire, and landed privately in the night at Porlock, for the sake of plunder; but the inhabitants, being timely alarmed, gave them so warm a reception, that the greater part were cut to pieces; and those few who escaped alive, were obliged to retire with great precipitation to their ships.<sup>b</sup>

About this time Porlock had an extensive chace,<sup>c</sup> and a palace of one of the Saxon kings. The latter, in all probability, was destroyed with the town not many years after, on the following memorable occasion:—Harold, the son of the banished Earl of Kent,<sup>d</sup> partaking of his father's losses and disgrace, had repaired to Ireland (which it

<sup>a</sup> Leland calls *Porlogh-Bay* a meatly good rode for shippes. Itin. vol. ii. p. 102.

<sup>b</sup> Chron. Sax. An. dcccxcviii.

<sup>c</sup> In the Register of Bishop Oliver King, in the archives at Wells, there is a curious entry of a commission issued to enquire into facts, and to examine witnesses, concerning a matter of one John Strange, a parishioner of Porlock, who being employed in hewing wood here Aug. 23, 1499, upon cutting a piece of bread for his usual meal, observed blood to flow out of the incision. *Reg. King. fol. 156.*—The memorial does not say that he cut his little finger.

<sup>d</sup> See the English historians.



seems had long been the receptacle of fugitives) in order to strengthen his party, and to raise troops, with a view of making a piratical descent upon the English coasts. Accordingly, about Midsummer 1052, setting sail from that country with nine strong ships, replete with men and arms suitable to his enterprize, he crossed the channel, and entered the bay of Porlock.<sup>e</sup> The place, it is to be supposed, had, since the attempt of the Danes, been greatly strengthened both with regard to buildings and population; and the natives, being likewise apprized of the approach of an enemy, were on this juncture assembled in vast multitudes upon the coast, resolved to defend it. Harold, however, secured his landing, and marched his men up into the country, where he seized every thing that was valuable, and after slaughtering numbers of the natives, and setting fire to the town, returned to his ships with immense booty.<sup>f</sup>

A small unfinished encampment of an oval form, in a wood one mile and a half south-west from the church, is supposed to have been thrown up on this occasion. The entrance to it is on the south side, and the upper trenches are very deep. Swords, and other instruments of war, have been found within its area.<sup>g</sup>

The inhabitants preserve the memory of the above occurrences to this day; and no longer ago than the beginning of this century, they could point out the burnt foundation stones of some of the ancient houses,<sup>h</sup> and the vestiges of what had once been, in the vulgar opinion, an extensive and magnificent city.

At this time, the whole manor of Porlock, with many of the adjacent lands, was in the possession of Algar,<sup>h</sup> the eldest son of Leofric Earl of Mercia, who was very instrumental in opposing and thwarting the ambitious designs of Godwin the father of Harold. But at the accession of William Duke of Normandy to the throne of England, by the decisive battle of Hastings, in which Harold was slain, this manor was vested in *Baldwin de Excestre*, one of the Conqueror's faithful adherents and attendants. William's own survey gives us the following description of the place, and its possessors:<sup>i</sup>

"The same (that is, Drogo or Drew) holds of Baldwin PORTLOC. Algar held it "in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is twelve "carucates. There are six bondmen, three cottagers, and six servants. There are "three hundred acres of wood, and five hundred acres of pasture. It was worth four "pounds when he received it, now only twenty-five shillings."

This Baldwin's name was *Redvers*; but in regard to his residence in the city of Exeter, wherein he was possessed of nineteen dwellings, and the custody of the castle, he was sometimes called *Baldwinus de Excestre*.

His successors the Earls of Devon enjoyed this estate; but in process of time enfeoffed the manor<sup>k</sup> on the family of Roges or Fitz-Roges, of which name were many in this county and that of Devon. In the time of Henry II. Anthony de Porloc, a name assumed from this place, held half a knight's fee in Porlock of Robert Fitz-Roges.<sup>l</sup>

<sup>e</sup> Chron. Sax. An. MLII.

<sup>f</sup> Sim. Dunelm. A. D. MLII.

<sup>g</sup> Discourse of Antiquities near *Conquest*, at the end of Peter Langtoft's Chronicle, p. 466.

<sup>h</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>i</sup> Ibid.

<sup>k</sup> Cart. Antiq.

<sup>l</sup> Lib. Nig. 120.



In which family of Roges the manor and advowson of the church continued for many generations, till the beginning of the reign of Edward III.<sup>m</sup> Ric. I. Simon Fitz-Roges, lord of this manor, paid a fine of one hundred shillings for impleading his right of half a knight's fee in Porlock against Richard de Raleigh.<sup>n</sup> This half knight's fee was ever after held of the castle of Oakhampton, the barony of the Earls of Devon.<sup>o</sup> A. D. 1310, 13 cal. Jan. George Roges was presented to the church of Porlock by Henry Roges his kinsman.<sup>p</sup> Simon Roges de Porlock was dead before 1317, for in that year Richard de Birlaunde was collated to the church here by the presentation of Herbert de Marisco, who had married Isabel the relict of Simon Roges, lord of this manor.<sup>q</sup> After which it passed to Stokkey, and after some descents to Sir Nigele or Neale de Loring, knight of the garter,<sup>r</sup> who left it with his other lands to his two daughters, Isabel the wife of Robert Lord Harington, and Margery, first married to Thomas Peyner, and secondly to Thomas Poynings, knt.<sup>s</sup> This manor came to Robert Lord Harington, and thence to William Bonville Lord Harington, and by Cecily his daughter to Henry Grey Duke of Suffolk; by whose attainder it came to the crown, and was granted to the family of Rogers of Cannington. Edward Rogers died seized of it in 1627. Sir Francis Rogers died 15 Charles I. and was succeeded by Hugh Rogers his son and heir, whose marriage and wardship were granted to Sir John Hele, and Thomas Smith, esq.<sup>t</sup> It afterwards came to the Blathwaites, and is now possessed by William Blathwaite, of Dirham in the county of Gloucester, esq.

The manor-house hath the name of *Worthy*, and is at present inhabited by a farmer. It stands near the wier, about two miles from Porlock; and at a little distance from it is a small cottage called *the Oratory*, which tradition says was formerly a cell to Barlinch priory in this county.

The manor of SPARKS-HAY, which formerly was a member of the great manor of Porlock, belongs to Lord King, baron of Ockham in the county of Surry.

Within this parish are four hamlets, viz.

1. BOSSINGTON, which stands one mile north-east from Porlock, and contains twenty-four houses.
2. WEST-PORLOCK, one mile west, containing fourteen houses.
3. PORLOCK-WIER, or QUAY, near two miles west, which has twenty houses.
4. YARNOR, on the hills, two miles south-west from Porlock, which contains four houses.

The first of these hamlets, viz. Bossington, was, before the Conquest, part of the possessions of Athelney-abbey, which was founded in the year 888 by Alfred the pious king of England. We read the following account of it in Domesday:—

“Radulfus de Limefi holds BOSINTVNE. The church of Adelingi held it in the time of King Edward the Confessor, and gelded for one hide. It was appropriated

<sup>m</sup> Sir Wm. Pole.

<sup>n</sup> Rot. Pip. Devon.

<sup>o</sup> Ex Autog. MSS.

<sup>p</sup> Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

<sup>q</sup> Ibid.

<sup>r</sup> From ancient evidences.

<sup>s</sup> Sir Wm. Pole.

<sup>t</sup> Ex Autog.



"to the table of the monks. The arable is five carucates. In demesne is one carucate, with one servant; and there are five villanes, and two cottagers, with one plough. Pasture one mile in length, and half a mile in breadth. It was, and is now, worth twenty shillings. When the King gave his land to Radulphus, the church was seized of this manor."<sup>u</sup>

This manor was held of the abbey of Athelney above-mentioned by the service of a whole knight's fee, and a rent of thirty shillings. In the time of Henry II. Talbot de Hethfield agreed under his seal to hold the same of Benedict the abbot and his successors; and, besides the above acknowledgment, to assist the abbots against their enemies, under pain of excommunication.\* His descendants took the name of Talbot.

In the time of Edw. I. this manor was held by Henry de Glaften,<sup>y</sup> and in that of Edw. III. John Whyton possessed it, and died the latter end of that reign, leaving two daughters by Joanna his wife, viz. Elizabeth the eldest, who married Walter Paunsfort, and was mother of Walter, who did his homage for half the manor to John Bigge, abbot of Athelney, 3 Henry VI. and sold his right to John Sydenham, son of Henry, who married Margaret the other daughter; and 30 Henry VI. on an award made by arbitration of Alexander Hody, then steward to the abbey, John Sydenham acknowledges the rent and services above recited for the whole manor, whereof he was possessed of half by purchase from Walter Paunsfort.<sup>z</sup> Sir Thomas Acland, bart. is the present owner.

The living is a rectory, in the deanery of Dunster, and in the gift of the crown, worth 140l. a year. The Rev. George Pollen is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Dubritius, is an ancient Gothick structure, ninety-six feet in length, and thirty-four in breadth, consisting of a nave, south aisle, chancel, vestry-room, and porch, all covered with slate. At the west end is a low tower, with the remains of a spire shingled, the upper part having been blown down in a storm the end of the last century. The tower, with the spire, is seventy feet high, and contains a clock and five bells.

In the chancel, on a large tomb under a grand arched canopy supported by four stone columns, lie the effigies of a Knight Templar and his lady. He is in complete armour, with a military belt and sword; she is in a close bodice, with a loose robe over it, and a kind of mitred head-dress: at his feet is a lion, and another under his head; at her feet, some other animal much mutilated.

Against the north wall of the chancel is another very ancient tomb; but there is no inscription or arms on either. They, however, most probably belonged to some of the Rogers family.

On the south wall of the chancel is a pompous mural monument of stone and black marble, much ornamented with painting, gilding, carved foliage, and scrolls. In the front, two small detached columns of black marble, with Corinthian capitals gilt,

<sup>u</sup> Lib. Domesday.

\* Regist. Abbat. de Athelney, MS.

<sup>y</sup> Efc.

<sup>z</sup> Regist. ut supra.



support a cornice, at each corner of which is a flaming urn. On the center of this cornice rises an arched pediment, on which recline two cherubs with wings expanded and gilt. Their left hands support a civick crown, and their right the arms; *fable*, six martlets *argent*.-----On the tablet is the following inscription:

“Subtus inhumatur Nathaniel Arundel, s. t. b. parochiæ de Exford rector, et verè pastor; cujus erga Deum sincera pietas, erga ecclesiam intrepidus zelus, erga uxorem amor vix imitabilis, erga pauperes sine ostentatione liberalitas, erga universos sine adulatione urbanitas:—heu quando ullum invenient parem! Plura vetat magnarum virtutum comes verecundia. Hoc igitur omnia breve claudat encomium; vivus amicos habuit homines, moriens conscientiam, mortuus Deum. Ob. 6 id. Feb. salutis humanæ 1705, ætatis suæ 70. Jana defuncti relicta charissima, necnon reverendi viri Gulielmi Mitchell, hujus ecclesiæ rectoris, filia natu maxima, hoc supremum posuit devinctissimi amoris monumentum.”

Underneath is this coat; *fable*, five martlets *argent*, impaling *gules*, a chevron, between three swans proper: for *Mitchell*.

On the same side of the chancel is a plain mural monument of white marble, thus inscribed:

“Near this place lies interred the Rev. Mr. William Moggridge, who was rector of this place 29 years, and vicar of Minehead 53; who died March 5, 1763, aged 82.

“Also Frances his wife, who died Feb. 6, 1765, aged 69. And also Joan their daughter, who died July 7, 1737, aged 6 years.”

Under an arch in the south wall of the aisle, is the mutilated effigy of a knight, having a shield on his left arm, a sword on his left side in a military belt, and his right hand on the handle, in the act of drawing it.

Against one of the pillars in the nave, is the following table of benefactions. On the top are the arms of Rogers, viz. *argent*, a chevron, between three bucks trippant *fable*.

“Henry Rogers, of Cannington, esq; some time lord of this manor, by his last will gave the sum of 2350l. for the purchasing of lands, the clear rents and profits thereof to be employed towards the maintenance of twenty poor people; eight of the said poor to live within the manor of Porlock, and to have their proportions; which lands have been since purchased in the names of Sir Edward Windham, bart. Sir Francis Warre, bart. and others, to the number of twelve trustees; and when any five of them shall die, the survivors are, within six months after, to elect so many more fit and able persons to manage the trust. The vicar of Cannington for the time being is appointed to be one, according to a deed of trust, one copy whereof remains in our vestry. WILLIAM RUSCOMB, Steward.”

There is also another charity of 25l. a year, being the rent of an estate in Winsford parish, formerly left by Mrs. Rogers.

In the year 1426, Sir William Harington, knt. founded a chantry in the parish church, for one priest to celebrate divine service daily, for the health of his own soul, and the souls of his ancestors, which chantry he endowed with lands in Ugborough in Devonshire;



Devonshire; as also with divers messuages in the town of Porlock.\* The house wherein the priest resided is standing near the church, and is still called the chantry-house.

*John Bridgwater, or de Bridgwater*, descended from an ancient family of the same name in this county, was rector of Porlock in 1565. He held divers other preferments in this neighbourhood, as well as the rectory of Lincoln-college in Oxford, to which he was appointed in 1563, but resigned it in 1574. He left Oxford the same year; and having visited several foreign countries, settled at Triers in Germany, where he wrote many books, and was held in general estimation as a sensible ecclesiastick. Among other things he published, "*Concertatio Ecclesiæ Catholicæ in Anglia adversus Calvinos-Papistas & Puritanos, sub Elizabetha Regina, quorundam hominum doctrinâ et sanctitate illustriû renovata & recognita.*" Aug. Trev. 1594. 8vo.

On a view of the parish register, the annual average number of births is found to be eighteen, and of burials fourteen.

\* Pat. 5 Hen. VI.

## S E L W O R T H Y.

**W**ESTWARD from Minehead, and situated on the southern slope of lofty hills adjoining to the sea coast, stands SELWORTHY, a small parish, which in the Conqueror's time belonged to Ralph de Limeſi, who was also possessed of Luccombe and other manors in this county: the record says,

"Ralph himself holds SELEURDE. Queen Eddida held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is five carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and two servants, and seven villanes, and five cottagers, with three ploughs. There is a mill of twenty pence rent, and five acres of meadow, and sixty acres of pasture, and forty acres of wood. It was worth twenty shillings, now twenty-five shillings."

This Ralph de Limeſi was succeeded by Alan his son and heir, after whom came Gerard, John, and Hugh, all of them principally seated in the county of Warwick. But this manor was afterwards possessed by the house of Luccombe, and passed nearly in the same manner as the estate from which they derived their name, having gone through the families of Luccombe, St. John, and Arundel, and is now the possession of Frederick Thomas Wentworth, esq.

The vills in this parish are,

1. HOLNICOT, which in the Conqueror's time belonged to Roger de Curcelle, and to two Nuns, as we are informed in the record of that reign:

\* Lib. Domesday.

"William



“ William holds of Roger HUNECOTE. Aluric and Brictuin held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for half a hide, and half a virgate of land. The arable is two carucates and a half. There are four villanes, with one cottager, having two ploughs. There are sixteen acres of pasture. It is worth twenty-two shillings.<sup>b</sup>

“ Two Nuns hold of the King in alms two virgates and a half of land in Honecote. The arable is two carucates. There is one plough and five acres of meadow. It is worth five shillings.”<sup>c</sup>

William de Holne held this vill in the time of Edw. I. and in that same reign Walter Barun is certified to hold certain lands and tenements herein, consisting of one messuage, ten acres of arable, and two acres of meadow, of the King in capite, by the service of hanging on a certain forked piece of wood the red deer that died of the murrain in the forest of Exmoor, and also of lodging and entertaining such poor decrepit persons as came to him, at his own expence, for the souls of the ancestors of King Edw. I.<sup>d</sup>

This village is situated in the road leading from Minehead to Porlock, southward from the church, and consists of twelve houses. The noble old mansion of Sir Thomas Acland here was accidentally destroyed by fire in the year 1779. Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, bart. is the present lord of Holnicot.

2. ALLERFORD, one mile westward, containing fifteen houses. This place was the land of Ralph de Limesi above-mentioned, and is thus surveyed:

“ Ralph himself holds ALRESFORD. Edric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is five carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and two servants, and six villanes, and two cottagers, with one plough. There is a mill of fifteen-pence rent, and six acres of meadow, and twenty acres of pasture, and one acre of wood. It was worth fifteen shillings, now twenty shillings.

“ This manor pays a customary rent of twelve sheep per annum to Carentone the King’s manor. Ralph still keeps up this custom.”<sup>e</sup>

This manor was afterwards held of the lords of Dunster. 4 Edw. III. John de Raleigh held it of John de Mohun.<sup>f</sup> 1 Eliz. lands were held here by John Arundel of Trerice.

3. TIVINGTON, or BLACKFORD, one mile east, having nine houses. This manor was the property of the late Charles Whitworth.

4. KNOLL, adjoining to Wotton-Courtney, near two miles eastward, in which are four houses.

5. WEST-LYNCH, near Boffington, four houses.

6. BRANDY-STREET, betwixt Holnicot and Allerford, five houses.

The rest of the houses stand near the church, the whole number being seventy, and of inhabitants about three hundred and sixty.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Dunster, valued in 1292 at six marks and a half. The abbot of Athelney had a pension out of it of three marks, given to the

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid.

<sup>d</sup> Efc. 35 Edw. I.

<sup>e</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>f</sup> Lib. Feod.



abbey by Richard de Luckham, out of his demefne lands in this parifh, about A. D. 1200.<sup>s</sup> Frederick Thomas Wentworth, efq; is the patron; and the Rev. Mr. Williams the prefent incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to All-Saints, is fituated very pleafantly on rifing ground open to the fouth; and confifts of a nave, chancel, north and fouth ailes, tiled. An embattled tower, 45 feet high at the weft end, contains a clock and fix bells.

In the fouth aile is an elegant mural monument of white and grey marble, the infcription whereof is now quite effaced, but which bears the following arms, viz. *Gules*, a chevron *argent*, between three etoiles *or*: an inefcutcheon of pretence, on a chevron between three horfes paffant *argent*, three orles *fable*.

Againft the fame wall is another monument of white and grey marble, with this infcription:—" Sacred to the memory of Charles Staynings, efq; of Holnicot in this parifh, the laft of that ancient family, and of Sufannah his wife, daughter to Sir Nicholas Martyn, late of Oxton in the county of Devon, knt. She departed this life the 8th of May 1685; he Dec. 4, 1700, aged 78." Arms, *argent*, a bat difplayed *fable*, Staynings: impaling, *argent*, two bars *gules*, Martyn.

On a brafs plate in the chancel floor is a long epitaph in Latin and Englifh verfe to the memory of William Fleet, paftor of this parifh 48 years, who died Jan. 5, 1617.

Another brafs plate to Robert Siderfin, gent. who died Jan. 20, 1714, aged 25; and to Walter Siderfin, gent. who died March 21, 1731, aged 40.

On two brafs plates on the floor of the fouth aile:—" Heere lyeth the body of Anthony Steynings, the fonne of Charles Steynings, of Holnecot, efq; who died May 19, 1635.—Here lyeth the body of Cecill Staynings, fome tyme the wife of Charles Staynings, of Holnecot, efq; by whom he had feven fonnes and fixe daughters. She died June 21, 1646, aged 47."

In the church-yard is an old ftone crofs.

The chriftenings in this parifh are twelve; the burials ten.

<sup>s</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

## S T O K E - P E R O.

THIS parifh, fo denominated from its ancient lords, is fituated four miles fouth from Porlock, and eight fouthweft from Minehead, in one of thofe deep vallies which wind between the hills. The number of houfes is eighteen, and of inhabitants about one hundred. Fourteen of the houfes, which are moftly mean thatched cottages, ftand in the valley near the church; the other four compofe a hamlet called WILMOTSHAM.

A part



A part of Dunkery-hill is within the confines of this parish, and to the west and south is the long wild tract of Exmoor. The lands, except a few meads in the valley, and fields of arable on the sides of the hills, are chiefly waste or woods. On each side the vale wherein stands the village, the slopes of the hills are very steep, woody, and rocky. Through one of them the road lies to Luckham, and is extremely picturesque, but impassable for any carriage, being so steep, narrow, and encumbered with large loose stones, that it is dangerous even for horses. These woods abound with whortleberries; and on the rocks and trees are many curious mosses.

We find but little in history concerning this parish, which was anciently written *Stoche*, implying simply a *place*, perhaps by way of eminence. It belonged to William de Mohun among his other estates in this neighbourhood:

“Roger holds of William STOCHE. Eddida held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides. The arable is two carucates, which are in demesne, with eight cottagers. There are eight acres of meadow, and four acres of coppice wood. It was and is worth thirty shillings.”

In the time of Edward I. this manor was the property of Gilbert Piro, a name which afterwards degenerated into Pero and Perrow.

12 Hen. IV. John son of Henry Forster held half a knight's fee in Stoke-Pero and Bagley of Ralph Durborough, as of the manor of Almesworthy.

It came afterwards into the families of Dodisham and Pym, and is now the property of the Rev. Chancellor Nutcombe.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Dunster, and in the gift of the crown. The Rev. Mr. Williams is the present incumbent.

The church, which stands on a rising ground on the southwest side of the valley, is a small structure fifty-four feet long, and sixteen wide, and at the west end is a tower, thirty feet high, with one bell.—There is no monument, nor inscription.

\* Lib. Domesday.

## T I M B E R S C O M B E .

THIS parish being situated in a lowly valley encompassed with hills of wood, undoubtedly had its name from that circumstance; Timber being the Saxon term for wood, and Lombe that for a valley. In like manner many *Combes* in this neighbourhood were denominated from the particular kind of wood that grew about them, as Withycombe from *Wiðig* a withy or willow, and Lombe a valley; Thorncombe from *Doþn* a thorn, and Lombe; Ashcombe from *Ærc* an ash, and Lombe; and Bickham in this parish, called in Domesday *Bichecome*, from *Bece* a beech tree, and Lombe the same

appellation for a glen or valley. Nay even some of these spots, thus deeply situated, were denominated from very inferior products of nature, of which we have a notable instance in the name of *Nettlecombe*, which comes from *Netele*, a nettle, of which herb in all probability great plenty grew in that parish. And some had their derivatives from some particularity of situation, as *Luccombe*, or Luckham, called in Domesday *Locumbe*, which is derived from the Saxon *Loc* and *Lombe*, signifying an inclosed valley; and *Widcombe* from *Vid* and *Lombe*, a wide or extensive valley.

Timbercombe is a small parish four miles from Minehead, and in the road to Dulverton, consisting of about fourscore houses, which principally form an irregular street by the church. The country round is very picturesque and romantick. Two small rivers rising under Dunkery-hill unite in this parish, and turn two grist mills, running under a stone bridge of one arch (built by the parish) in its way to Dunster.

King William the Conqueror gave the manor of Timbercombe to Roger Arundel:

“Drogo holds of Roger TIMBRECUMBE. Aluerd held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide and a half. The arable is eight carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and two servants, and three villanes, and eight cottagers, with one plough. There are eleven acres of meadow, and one hundred and fifty acres of pasture, and sixty-one acres of wood. It was worth when he received it one hundred shillings, now forty shillings.

“To this manor is added one furlong. Algar held it in the time of King Edward. The arable is one carucate. There is half a plough, with two cottagers, and eight acres of pasture, and four acres of wood. It is worth five shillings.”<sup>b</sup>

We find by the inquisitions 8 Edward IV. that John Sydenham died seized of Timbercombe that year, which he held of Sir William Herbert, knt. as of his barony of Dunster, by fealty and the rent of two shillings; leaving Walter Sydenham his son and heir.<sup>c</sup> 7 Henry VI. Simon Raleigh, Robert Bykcombe, Walter Pauncefoot, William Cloutham, and Thomas Bratton, held separately half a knight's fee in Timbercombe, which John de Tort, and the heirs of Edon de Dammefton, formerly held there.<sup>d</sup> The manor now belongs to Sir Thomas Dyke Acland. The prior of Dunster received out of it a yearly pension of ten shillings.<sup>e</sup>

About half a mile westward from the church is *Bickham*, now the seat of William Withycombe, esq; but which formerly gave name to a family who were owners thereof. It is surveyed in Domesday-book under the title of *Bichecome*:

“Richard holds of William BICHECOME. Two Thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one virgate of land. The arable is two carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and three villanes, and six cottagers, with half a plough. There are three acres of meadow, and forty acres of pasture. It was formerly worth six shillings, now fifteen shillings.”<sup>f</sup>

This was another of those manors which were anciently held of the Castle of Dunster. 14 Edw. I. Robert de Bykkombe held one knight's fee in Bykkombe of John de

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Domesday.    <sup>c</sup> Efc.    <sup>d</sup> Lib. Feod.    <sup>e</sup> Taxat. Temporal.    <sup>f</sup> Lib. Domesday.



Mohun lord of Dunster,<sup>a</sup> which fee seems to have continued in the same family for several generations. The Biccombes were lords also of Crocombe in this county, as also of Broomfield, and had divers lands and possessions in other parishes, which descended to the families of Carew of Camerton, and Smith of Long-Ashton.

Timberscombe constitutes a prebend in the cathedral church of Wells, which prebend was in 1292 valued at eight marks.<sup>b</sup> The living is a vicarage in the deanery of Dunster: The Rev. George Knyphton is the present incumbent. A. D. 1471, John Nesfeld, esq; recovered the presentation to the prebend of Timberscombe against the Bishop of Bath and Wells, and by virtue of the King's writ Robert Wilfon, L.L.B. was instituted to the said prebend.<sup>c</sup>

The church is a neat Gothick edifice, dedicated to St. Michael, and consists of a nave, chancel, south aisle, and a north porch; and has at the west end an embattled tower crowned with a low spire, a clock, and four bells.

The altar-piece, which is very neat, was given by Richard Elsworth of Bickham, esq; who died Aug. 5, 1714, aged 22 years, and lies buried in this church. His arms are, Per pale indented, *gules* and *argent*, four lions rampant counter-changed. This Richard Elsworth founded a charity-school in this parish about the year 1710, for teaching poor children to read and write, and endowed the same with ten pounds per annum.

In the church-yard stand the remains of a stone cross.

The christenings on an average are eleven, the burials eight.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Feod.

<sup>b</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

<sup>c</sup> Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

## T R E B O R O U G H,

(Anciently written TREBERGE and TRABERGE)

**A** Small parish, lying in a hollow on high ground, surrounded by still higher hills, finely cultivated, and cut into large and beautiful inclosures, unincumbered with wood, six miles south from Dunster, and fourteen west from Taunton. The lands are in general very rich, being a sandy loam, and mostly arable. It consists of about twenty houses, the greater part of which are farms.

The manor of this place is set down in the Norman record among the possessions of Ralph de Limeſi:

“Ralph himself holds TRABERGE. Edric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for half a hide. The arable is five carucates. In demesne is one carucate. There is one villane, and thirty acres of wood. Pasture one mile long, and as much broad. It is worth seven shillings, for it lies waste.”

After

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

After the Conquest, Treborough came to the possession of the family of Bafings, lords of Kentsford in the parish of St. Decumans in this county; of whom were, William son of Hamo de Bafings temp. Edw. I. John de Bafings 8 Edw. II. father of another John, whose son Gilbert Bafings 7 Henry V. was succeeded by another Gilbert then under age. This Gilbert Bafings died 16 Henry VI. leaving Simon his son and heir, who dying soon after without issue, Alianor his sister, married to John Hamme, became possessed of Treborough and Kentsford; and in conjunction with her said husband, 20 Henry VI. passed over all her right in these manors to Sir William Bonville and others in trust for Richard Luttrell; and 24 Henry VI. being then the wife of John Williams, levied a fine to the said trustees.

This Richard Luttrell, who was an illegitimate son of Sir John Luttrell, was 22 Henry VI. appointed constable of Dunster Castle for life; and the following year coroner for the county of Somerset. 29 Henry VI. he was, with Sir William Bonville, appointed by the Duke of York keeper of the King's park at North-Petherton, and the same year steward of all the lands belonging to the Duke of York in this county, and keeper of his castle at Bridgwater. 33 Henry VI. he accounted for timber cut down in the King's manor of North-Petherton, and soon after died without issue, whereupon the estates reverted to Sir James Luttrell of Dunster castle. On his attainder this manor, with that of Kentsford, and the other lands, was granted to the earl of Pembroke; but on its being reversed 12 Henry VII. it resorted to Sir Hugh Luttrell, in whose descendants it continued, till in the time of Edw. VI. Sir John Luttrell, grandson to Sir Hugh, sold it to Sir John Wyndham, who gave it to Edward his second son, progenitor of the Wyndhams of Kentsford, Trent, Pillefdon, and Tale.<sup>b</sup> The manor was afterwards conveyed into other hands, and is now the property of Sir John Trevelyan, bart.

Within the parish of Treborough is BROWN, which is thus noticed in the old record:

“Durand holds of William [de Mohun] BRUNE. Edwold held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is six carucates. In demesne are two carucates and a half, and two servants, and thirteen villanes, and three cottagers, with four ploughs. There is one acre of meadow, and four and twenty acres of pasture, and twelve acres of wood. It was formerly worth twenty shillings, now forty shillings.”<sup>c</sup>

It afterwards was held of the castle of Dunster by the Martins, progenitors of those of Athelampston in Dorsetshire.<sup>d</sup>

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Dunster; the patronage is annexed to the manor, and the Rev. Mr. Bennet is the present incumbent.

The church is a small building, dedicated to St. Peter, consisting of one pace fifty-four feet long, and fifteen wide. There is a tower on the south side, and a porch at the west end. The tower contains three bells.

<sup>b</sup> MS. Palmer.—See Kentsford in St. Decumans, Williton hundred.    <sup>c</sup> Lib. Domesday.    <sup>d</sup> Esc.



W I T H Y C O M B E.

**T**HIS pariſh, which had its name (as we have before obſerved) from the Saxon *Viðig* a withy or willow tree, and *Lombe* a valley, lies four miles eaſt from Minehead, and twenty northweſt from Taunton. It is delightfully ſituated in a fertile vale, encompassed on three ſides with lofty and finely cultivated hills; the north ſide opens to the ſea at about two miles diſtance, affording a pleaſing view of the broken coaſt of Somerſet on the right, and in front, beyond the channel, the Welch coaſt and mountains.

The pariſh contains forty-three houſes, and two hundred and twenty inhabitants. The village conſiſts of one ſtraggling ſtreet, through which runs a ſmall ſtream, which iſſues from a ſpring at a place called Redgirts, under Rodehuiſh hill, and empties itſelf into the ſea between Dunſter and Watchet.

Half a mile eaſtward from the church is a noble wood of fine oak, containing more than twenty acres, and covering the crown of a round hill. It is called Court-Wood, and belongs to John Fownes Luttrell, eſq. On the hills to the ſouth, the black game are plentiful, and the woods abound with whortleberries and wild raspberries.

The manerial province of this place, called Withycombe-Hadley, and Withycombe-Week, is veſted in John Fownes Luttrell, eſq; in whoſe family it has been for ſeveral generations. At the time of the Conqueſt the whole vill belonged to the Biſhop of Coutance, to whom it was given by William the Conqueror:

“ Edmer holds of the Biſhop *WIDICUMBE*. Alnod held it, and gelded for three  
“ hides, in the time of King Edward. The arable is ten carucates. In demefne are  
“ two carucates, and ſix ſervants, and fourteen villanes, and ſeven cottagers, with eight  
“ ploughs. There are ten acres of meadow, and five hundred and fifty acres of paſture,  
“ and one hundred acres of wood wanting four. It was worth four pounds, now  
“ ſix pounds.”<sup>a</sup>

The family of Fitz-Urſe poſſeſſed this manor in very early times after the Norman Conqueſt. Of which family there is traced a deſcent of ſeven generations from the time of Henry II. to the latter end of the reign of Edw. III. when the two daughters of Sir Ralph Fitzurſe being married, the one to Fulford, of Fulford in Devonſhire, the other to Sir Hugh Durborough, of Heathfield-Durborough in this county, the manor became aliened from the name; and in the partition of the marriage ſettlements between the two daughters above-mentioned, was aſſigned to Maud the wife of Durborough. Their iſſue was James Durborough of Heathfield, and Ralph Durborough the eldeſt, who inherited Withycombe. He married Joan the daughter of John St. Barb, by whom he had two daughters, Joan the wife of John Courtenai, who died without iſſue, and Alice the wife of Alexander Hadley. Which Alexander, in right of his wife, became poſſeſſed of Withycombe, and tranſmitted it to his ſon John Hadley; who,

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domeſday.

having married Joan the daughter of Richard Stawel, was father of Richard Hadley. He married Philippa the daughter of Sir Humphry Audley, knt. and had issue one son, James, and two daughters, Anne and Jane. James married two wives, first Fridefwide, the daughter of Charles Matthew, of the county of Glamorgan; his second wife's name was Elizabeth. By his first wife he was father of several children, viz. four sons, Christopher, John, James, and Thomas, and two daughters, Anne and Rachel. Christopher Hadley, his son and heir, was twenty-two years of age, 31 Henry VIII. and being married, left issue Arthur Hadley, and Margaret. Arthur died without issue in the time of Philip and Mary; and his sister Margaret, who was married to James Luttrell, esq; succeeded to the estate; which thus passing into the family of Luttrell of Dunster Castle, has lineally descended to the present possessor.

The living of Withycombe is a rectory in the deanery of Dunster. The Rev. George Inman of Burrington is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Nicholas, is a small building, consisting of a nave and chancel tiled. On the south side stands a square embattled tower thirty-six feet high, and containing four bells.

On a brass plate in the chancel:—"Here lyeth the bodie of Joane Carne of Sandel, who was thrice married; first unto John Newton of Sandell, gent. next unto Charles Windham, esquire; and last of all unto Thomas Carne of Eweny in the countye of Glamorgan, esq. Shee dyed on the nine and twentieth daye of October 1612."

On a stone:—"Here lyeth the body of Samuel Rogers, M. A. rector of this parish; and under the next stone, on the right hand, lies the body of his dear sister Elizabeth. He died Jan. 26, 1767, aged 79. She died Sept. 2, 1749."

On a tablet against the north wall of the nave:—"Underneath lyeth the body of Elianor Sully, daughter of Richard Sully and Margaret his wife, who was wife of Henry Chester, and Giles Dawberie, who died Aug. 27, 1730, aged 88." 'What is more miserable than a living man without divine assistance?'

## W O T T O N - C O U R T N E Y

**I**S a small parish three miles southwest from Minehead, and twenty-two northwest from Taunton, pleasantly situated on the south slope of a lofty ridge of hills called Grabbist, which divides this parish from those of Minehead and Dunster. Two miles to the south is Dunkery-Hill, the foot of which reaches to the fine vale at the bottom of the village.

The whole number of houses in this parish is about fifty-four, and of inhabitants about two hundred and sixty. Thirty houses form a neat though irregular street near the church; the residue are distributed in the following hamlets, viz.

I. RANSCOMBE,



1. RANSCOMBE, one mile east, containing eight houses.
2. WOTTON-FORD, under Dunkery-hill, three houses.
3. HUNTS-GATE-MILL, one mile west on the road to Luckham, eight houses.
4. BROCKWELL, under Dunkery, two houses.
5. BURROW, one mile south, three houses.

A fair for cattle and sheep is held here on the 19th of September, and the inhabitants have a common right on Dunkery-hill.

William de Faleise, a Norman, had the manor of Wotton, (then called *Otone*) given him by William Duke of Normandy; his possessions here are thus accounted for in the general survey:

“ William himself holds OTONE. Algar held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is ten carucates. In demesne are three carucates, and six servants, and ten villanes, and eight cottagers, with three ploughs. There is a mill of ten pence rent, and four acres of meadow. Pasture one mile in length, and half a mile in breadth, and the same of wood. It was and is worth one hundred shillings.”

In the time of Edw. I. this manor came into the family of the Courtneys, barons of Oakhampton, and afterwards earls of Devonshire; and from them the place derived its additional denomination. In this name and family it continued for many generations; till in the time of Edw. III. Sir Hugh Courtney dying without issue, his estates became divided between his sister Margaret, afterwards married to Sir Thomas Peverell, and John Dinham, son and heir of Muriel his younger sister. In an inquisition taken 1 Henry VI. it was found that Margaret Peverell held this manor at her decease; and that her heirs were Catherine the wife of Sir Walter Hungerford, and Eleanor the wife of Sir William Talbot, both daughters of the said Margaret Peverell.\* On the partition Sir Walter Hungerford had this manor, and from him and his descendants of that name it passed to the family of Hastings and Huntingdon. After which it was possessed by that of Hilsborough, and now by Lord Stawel.

The living of Wotton-Courtney is rectorial, in the deanery of Dunster, and in 1292 was valued at seven marks three shillings and fourpence.<sup>†</sup> It was appropriated to the priory of Stoke-Courcy, and as parcel of its revenues was granted by King Henry VI. to Eton college, the provost and fellows whereof are now the patrons. The Rev. Mr. Bryant is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to All-Saints, stands on an eminence, and consists of a nave, chancel, and north aisle, all covered with tiles. At the west end is an embattled tower, containing a clock and five bells. The aisle is divided from the nave by three arches, thirteen feet wide and seventeen feet high. The pillars, which are clustered, are six feet in circumference, and ten feet high to the spring of the arches. On the tops of these pillars are statues in niches, embellished with Gothick ornaments.

\* Lib. Domesday.

† Inq. post mort.

‡ Taxat. Spiritual.

That next to the chancel represents Saint Christopher carrying our Saviour, the middle one is supposed to be intended for the Virgin Mary, and the other for Saint Lawrence with his gridiron. On each side of the east window, on the south side of the nave, are angels, with the names St. Gabriel and St. Michael on their breasts. There is likewise an ancient font.

The following inscriptions are on the chancel floor:

"Hic jacent sepulti Thomas Morley, 16 Mar. 1624. Ricardus Morley, 4 Mar. 1627. Filii Johannis Morley, rectoris hujus ecclesiæ."

"The Rev. Ralph Coombes, rector of the parish of Wotton-Courtney, departed this life the 29th of May, and was buried June 4, 1720; aged 60."

"The Rev. Mr. Charles Snape, rector of the parish of Wotton-Courtney, died Sept. 12, 1726, aged 40. Charles his son, and Penelope his daughter, died 15 March 1723. Also Penelope his second daughter, April 1726."

There are the fragments of an old stone cross in the church-yard, and a fine yew tree with a beautiful spread of branches.

The average number of christenings is seven, the burials five.





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THE HUNDRED OF  
C A T A S H.

**T**HIS hundred, which is bounded by that of Brewton on the east, Somerton on the west, by Whitstone and Glaston-Hides on the north, and on the south by Horethorne, takes its name from an ash tree in the road between Castle-Cary and Yeovil, where the court for the hundred has usually been held.

This hundred was anciently in the crown; but granted out at different periods to different persons. 14 Henry II. the sheriff of Somerset and Dorset accounted for five marks for a murder committed in this hundred.<sup>a</sup> 8 Edward II. it was held by Richard de Cumpston, who was also possessed of a moiety of the manor of Kenton-Mandeville.<sup>b</sup> King Richard II. in the sixteenth year of his reign granted the hundreds of Stone and Catash to John Holland Earl of Huntingdon,<sup>c</sup> whose son John, created Duke of Exeter by King Henry VI. died seized of them in 1447.<sup>d</sup> 1 Ric. III. the hundred of Catash was granted by the crown to Burghe and his heirs male.<sup>e</sup> It is at present held by Mr. Jonas Blandford of Sparkford.

<sup>a</sup> Mag. Rot. 10. b.<sup>b</sup> Efc.<sup>c</sup> Pat. 16 Ric. II. m. 35.<sup>d</sup> Efc.<sup>e</sup> MS. Sydenham.

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C A S T L E - C A R Y (anciently C A R I)

**I**S a market town, situated three miles west from Brewton, twelve southeast from Wells, and thirteen north from Yeovil. It seems to have had a fortress in the Saxon times, from *Caer* its primitive appellation.

At the time of the Conqueror's survey it was the property of Walter de Dowai:

"Walter holds CARI. Elfi held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for fifteen hides. The arable is twenty carucates. Thereof in demesne are eight hides, and there are six carucates, and six servants, and thirty-three villanes, and twenty cottagers, with seventeen ploughs. There are three mills of thirty-four shillings rent, and one hundred acres of meadow. Wood one mile in length, and half a mile in breadth. And one burghs in Givelcestre, [Ilchester] and another in Brewton, pay 16'd. When he received it, it was worth sixteen pounds, now fifteen pounds."<sup>f</sup>

<sup>f</sup> Lib. Domesday.

In a short time after the Conquest we find this place in the possession of the family of Perceval, lords of Yvery in Normandy, from which country they came over hither with William the Norman Duke.

The first of the name that we meet with in England was Robert, Lord of Breherval, Yvery, Montinney, and Vasse, in Normandy, who was one of those that embarked in the Conqueror's expedition; but soon after the battle of Hastings returned to his own country, and devoted himself to a religious life in the abbey of Bec. He left behind him three sons, Ascelin, (furnamed Gouel and Gouel de Percheval) Gouel, and William.

Ascelin the eldest was likewise an adventurer in the Conqueror's army, and being of a ferocious disposition, acquired among his fellow-soldiers the title of *Lupus* or the *Wolf*. He died in 1120, leaving several sons, of whom John the youngest was portioned in the manor of Harptree, and in consequence assumed that name; but afterwards changed it to that of Gournay; and from him descended the barons of Harptree-Gournay.

Robert, the eldest son, died in 1121, without issue, on which

William Gouel de Percheval, his next brother, succeeded him in the Norman and English estates. He likewise was of a haughty and turbulent temper; and as his father had been complimented with the appellation of *Lupus*, so the son, for a similar reason, was diminutively termed *Lupellus*, which in process of time became softened into *Lovel*, and that name was ever after used by his posterity. When the barons of England, disgusted with King Stephen for having violated the engagements he had made to them on his advancement to the throne, levied forces against that prince, under the command of Robert Earl of Gloucester, in favour of Maud the Empress, mother to King Henry the second, this William de Percheval adhered to the confederate party, and erected strong fortifications at Cary, which was the head of his barony. William de Mohun did the same at Dunster, William de Harptree at Harptree, and other barons in different parts of the kingdom. This was done in 1138, and at a time when the King was greatly embarrassed in the siege of the city of Bristol, an occasion which William de Percheval availed himself of in order to distress his sovereign, ravaging from his castle at Cary the adjacent country, and carrying away with him all provisions necessary for the support of the King's army. Upon this, Stephen, finding Bristol impregnable, and conceiving that it would be altogether unsafe for him to continue before it any longer, raised the siege, and turned all his attention to the Castle of Cary, from which he had received so great an annoyance. Here his arms were crowned with better success; for he battered the fortrefs with his engines so violently and for so long a time, that the garriſon, being reduced to the utmost extremity, and receiving no reinforcement nor supplies from the Earl of Anjou, or their allies in Bristol, surrendered at length upon terms of peace and allegiance. Notwithstanding this, we find this William de Percheval again in arms against his Prince, and in the same cause, in 1153, when he defended this castle against Henry de Tracey, a firm adherent to the royal cause, who closely besieged him here, and threw up strong works above the castle; but he was shortly relieved by the Earl of Gloucester, who with some difficulty dismantled Tracey's fortifications.<sup>5</sup> It is

<sup>5</sup> See the English Chronicles.



probable that from this time the castle fell to ruin and decay; for little more is heard of it in the succeeding reigns, and at present the spot whereon it stood is hardly known to the inhabitants of the town; being marked only by an intrenched area of about two acres, called *the Camp*, in which implements of war and bolts of iron have frequently been dug up.

This William Gouel de Percheval was succeeded in the barony of Cary by Ralph Lupellus, or Lovel, his son and heir, who dying A. D. 1159 without issue, Cary came to the possession of Henry Lovel his brother.

Which Henry, 12 Henry II, upon the aid levied for marrying the King's daughter, certified his knight's fees to be eighteen of the old feoffment, and one of the new.<sup>b</sup> His wife's name was Alice, by whom he was father of two children, Ralph and Henry.

Ralph succeeded his father in the inheritance, and 1 John gave sixty-six pounds for livery of his barony of Cary,<sup>1</sup> but dying without issue 9 John,

His brother Henry became next heir to the estates, and 9 Joh. gave three hundred marks and seven palfries for the livery of his lands,<sup>k</sup> being certified to hold Cary of the King by the service of finding four knights, viz. two for the honour of Moreton, and two for that of Cary.<sup>1</sup>

To him succeeded Richard Lovel his son and heir, who 15 Henry III. procured a charter of free warren in all the lands belonging to his honour.<sup>m</sup> 26 Henry III. he paid a fine of fifteen marks to be excused attending the King in his expedition into Gascony, and 38<sup>th</sup> of the same reign, upon collection of the aid for making the King's eldest son a knight, answered for eleven knights fees and a half of the fees of Morton.<sup>n</sup> He died the same year, leaving issue

Henry Lovel his heir, who paid one hundred pounds for his relief, and had livery of his lands. He died 47 Henry III. being then seized of the manor of Castle-Cary, which he held of the King in chief for a whole barony, by the service of finding two soldiers in the King's army at his own cost for forty days.<sup>o</sup>

Richard, eldest son of Henry, succeeded in the manor of Castle-Cary; but he did not long survive his father, and died without issue, whereupon

Henry Lovel his brother came to the inheritance of this great lordship, and died seized thereof before 1280. His children were, Hugh Lord Lovel, and a daughter named Olivia, married to John Lord Gournay, son of Anselm de Gournay.

Which Hugh Lord Lovel was possessed of Cary 8 Edw. I. and died 19 Edw. I. seized of the same and other lands in this county,<sup>p</sup> leaving issue, by Eleanor his wife,

Richard Lovel, the third of that name, Baron of Cary. This Richard 9 Edw. III. obtained the custody of the castles of Corf and Purbeck.<sup>q</sup> He was afterwards summoned

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Nig. i. 100.    <sup>1</sup> Rot. Pip. 1 Joh.    <sup>k</sup> Rot. Pip. 9 Joh.    <sup>1</sup> Test. de Nevil.    <sup>m</sup> Claus. 15 Hen. III.

<sup>n</sup> Rot. Pip. 38 Hen. III.    <sup>o</sup> Efc. 47 Hen. III.    <sup>p</sup> Efc.    <sup>q</sup> Rot. Fin. 9 Edw. III.

to parliament as a baron of the realm in the 22d, 23d, and 24th of the same reign,<sup>r</sup> and died the year following seized of this manor. He married Muriel daughter of William the first Earl of Douglas, by whom he had James Lovel his heir, and two daughters, Joan and Eleanor.

James Lovel, only son of Richard, died in his father's life-time. By his wife Isabel he had issue a son, Richard, and a daughter of the name of Muriel.

Which Richard died very young, his grandfather being yet living. He was the last male heir of this house; for deceasing without issue, his sister Muriel became sole heir to the estate and barony of Cary, after the death of her grandfather Richard Lovel, the third of that name, and last baron thereof. This Muriel was at that time, viz. 25 Edw. III. nineteen years of age, and then the wife of Nicholas Lord St. Maur, whose posterity long enjoyed this honour and estate. The arms of Lovel were, *Or*, semeé of cross crosslets, a lion rampant *azure*.

This Nicholas Lord St. Maur, or Seymour, was descended from a family quite distinct from that of the Duke of Somerset, though the same name was common to both, and both branches flourished with great honour and prosperity in this county for many generations. But their arms were always different, viz. the ancient arms of the Seymours Dukes of Somerset were, A pair of wings conjoined, the tips downward; but the arms of St. Maur of Castle-Cary were, *Argent*, two chevrons *gules*, a label of three points *vert*.

The first settlement of the St. Maurs of Castle-Cary was at Road in this county, where we find by authentick records Laurence de Sto Mauro had his residence in the time of King Edw. I. This Laurence died in the 25th of that reign, and was succeeded by

Nicholas de Sto Mauro his son and heir, thirty years of age at the time of his father's decease. He married to his first wife Eva the daughter and sole heir of John de Meysey, Lord of Meysey-Hampton in the county of Gloucester, by whom he had that manor, and others in different counties. To his second wife he married Helen, eldest daughter and coheir of Lord Alan-Zouche of Ashby in Leicestershire. 9 Edw. I. this Nicholas St. Maur had a grant from the King of the manor of Poulton in Wiltshire, and 4 Edw. II. obtained a licence to fortify his manor-house at Eton-Meysey in the county of Wilts, where he himself and John de Meysey before him had sometime resided.<sup>s</sup> He was summoned to Parliament 8 Edw. II. but died two years after, leaving

Thomas his son and heir, who about 21 Edw. III. founded, at his manor of Poulton abovementioned, a Gilbertine priory to the honour of the Virgin Mary, and annexed it as a cell to that of Sempringham in Lincolnshire. In this priory the founder and many of his family were interred, and their monuments were deposited under arches in the walls of the presbytery.<sup>t</sup>

Nicholas the son and heir of Thomas St. Maur abovementioned, and heir by Muriel his wife to the barons of Castle-Cary, was 21 Edw. III. in the wars of France of the

<sup>r</sup> Claus. 22, 23, 24 Edw. III.

<sup>s</sup> Pat. 4 Edw. II.

<sup>t</sup> Lel. Itin. ii. 49.



retinue with Maurice de Berkley; and again 33 Edw. III. of the retinue with Thomas de Holand. He was summoned to parliament from 25 to 34 Edw. III. and died 35 Edward III. leaving issue two sons, Nicholas and Richard.

Nicholas the eldest died in his minority, and Richard his brother became heir to the estates. Which Richard, 10 Ric. II, was in the French wars, and in the retinue of Richard Earl of Arundel, admiral of England. He was summoned to parliament from 4 Ric. II. to 2 Hen. IV. when he died. He married Ela the daughter and coheir of Sir John St. Lo, by whom he had three sons, Richard, John, and Nicholas.

Richard the eldest was also among the parliamentary barons, and engaged, as his progenitors had been, in the wars of France: he died 10 Hen. IV. By Mary daughter and heir of Thomas Peyner he had issue one only daughter and heir, Alice, who was married to William Lord Zouche of Harringworth, whereby the said Lord Zouche became lord of this manor of Castle-Cary, and of most of the other great manors which belonged to the St. Maurs. But John, a younger brother of this Richard Lord St. Maur, kept up the family name for some generations.

This William Lord Zouche was descended from Alan Lord Zouche of Ashby in Leicestershire; but William the first of that name, having seated himself at Harringworth in Northamptonshire, one of those manors which came into the family by his mother Millicent, one of the sisters and heirs of George Lord Cantilupe, baron of Abergavenny, he afterwards assumed the title of Harringworth. This William, who married the heiress of St. Maur, was the fourth of that name, and died 3 Henry V. seized of Castle-Cary and many other manors, leaving William his son and heir, John, Margaret, and Elizabeth.

Which William, 2 Edw. IV. being then above thirty years of age, and bearing the title of Lord Zouche and St. Maur, having performed many signal services for the king, had a special livery of the lands of his inheritance. He died 8 Edw. IV. leaving John his son and heir, at that time eight years of age, as also William a younger son, and two daughters, viz. Elizabeth and Margaret.

John his son and heir married two wives, 1. Dorothy, daughter of Sir William Capel, knt. Lord-Mayor of London; 2. Joan, one of the sisters and heirs of John Lord Dynham, by both of whom he left children to posterity. But unluckily taking part with King Richard III. and being found with him in arms at the battle of Bosworth, he was attainted in parliament 1 Henry VII. and all his lands were confiscated to the crown. The castle and manor of Cary were thereupon granted by that King to Robert Willoughby Lord Broke; and the lands at Bridgwater, with North and South-Barrow, to Giles Lord Daubeney, and then he was restored in blood. The Lords Zouche being thus stripped of Castle-Cary and other great manors, lived retired at Marsh near Brewton, which Leland calls a goodly manor place, but ruinous in his time.

The manor of Castle-Cary, with other lands, were afterwards purchased by Edward the first Duke of Somerset. But about the year 1672, both the manor and estate being in the family of Bruce, they were disposed of in parcels to William Ettricke, esq; and Mr. Player; and one moiety thereof descended to Mrs. Ettricke of London, who left  
it

it by will to Mrs. Powell, who bequeathed it to the use of certain orphans, and of them it was finally purchased by Richard Colt Hoare, esq. The other moiety, purchased by Player, descended to Mr. Bragg, who disposed of it to the father of the late Lord Holland, and he to Benjamin Collins, of Salisbury, esq. This part of the estate was not long since sold to the tenants in possession; but the manerial rights were purchased by Richard Colt Hoare, esq; (now Sir R. C. Hoare, bart.) who thus became possessed of the whole manor, and is the present proprietor.

The manor-house stands on the east side of the street, and was, as appears by several fine old arches and other remains, a stately edifice; but great part of it has lately been demolished, and the apartments which remain are converted into store-rooms. At the time that King Charles fled from Worcester to Lyme-Regis after his defeat, he stopt at this house, which was then inhabited by a Mr. William Kirton, who met him on the road, and conducted him hither in disguise. To the west of the house, and within twenty feet of the walls, was a large piece of water, of nearly two acres, now almost choaked up with weeds and rubbish, but still retaining the name of Park-Pond.

The town of Castle-Cary consists principally of three streets, one of which is near a mile in length, but thinly and irregularly built, containing one hundred and forty-six houses. Besides these there are three hamlets, viz.

1. DUMMER, one mile west, containing four houses.
2. CLANVILL, one mile northwest, eight houses.
3. COCKHILL, one mile southwest, four houses.

And a single house called *Thorne*. The whole number of houses is one hundred and sixty-three, and of inhabitants about nine hundred and fifty.

This town has a charter for holding a market on Tuesdays, but it has been long discontinued, except that markets for corn, sheep, and cattle, are occasionally held from Allhallow-tide to Easter. The old market-house (built in 1616) is now converted into dwelling-houses. There are three fairs; on the Tuesday se'nnight before Easter, the first of May, and Whit-Tuesday, for cattle, sheep, and pedlery ware. Many of the poor are employed in knitting stockings for sale.

The church of Castle-Cary was anciently appropriated to the priory of Bath, and in 1292 was valued at twenty marks."

The living is a vicarage in the deanery of its name, and in the patronage of the bishop of the diocese. The Rev. John Taylor, A. M. is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to All-Saints, and consists of a nave, chancel, and side ailes, covered with lead. Its length is ninety-four feet, its breadth forty-two. There is an embattled tower at the west end, fifty feet high, having thereon a spire thirty-six feet high above the battlements, and containing a clock and six bells. This structure stands on a rising ground, and makes a pretty appearance. It retains the marks of Cromwell's fury, which entirely demolished the organ, and defaced many of its ornaments.



In the south aisle, the tablet of a very elegant mural monument of different kinds of marble contains the following inscription:-----“ In memory of John Rufs, gent. who died Feb. 9, 1732, aged 26. Of Margaret his wife, who died July 30, 1758, aged 56. And of Margaret their daughter, who died Feb. 1, 1758, aged 25: whose mortal remains are deposited in the middle aisle of this church. This monument was erected by Agnes Cheeke widow, sister and executrix to the above-mentioned Margaret Rufs, A. D. 1760.”-----Arms, *Azure*, a saltire *or*, between four cross croissants fitché *argent*.

On the same wall there is a neat monument of white marble, inscribed as follows:-----“ Near this place lie the remains of Daniel Collins, gent. who died the 13th of April 1753, in the 60th year of his age. Early in life he retired from business to this his native air to obtain health, which neither his own experience, nor skill of the faculty, could procure him in London. Here he passed the remainder of his days, inoffensive, friendly, honest, always seeking the peace of a just mind by an humble resignation to the Divine will, and constant integrity and benevolence to his neighbour. His disconsolate widow, Magdalen Collins, has placed this monument as a mark of her sincere regard to his memory, with whom she had the happiness to live upwards of forty years in the greatest concord and affection.”

At the east end of the north aisle is a very neat mural monument of white and yellow marble, terminated by an urn.-----“ In the centre of the isles is deposited all that was mortal of Cary Creed, jun. esq. He departed this life Jan. 10, in the year of Salvation 1775, aged 67.”

In the same aisle, on a marble monument:-----“ Opposite hereto in the middle isle lies all that is mortal of Elizabeth, wife of Cary Creed, gent. who departed this life June 16, A. D. 1737, in the 48th year of her age.”

On the floor:-----“ Underneath are deposited the remains of John Creed, vicar of this parish fifty years, interred 29 Dec. 1740. Of Ann his wife, 31 July 1740. Of Elizabeth their daughter, aged 22. Of Elizabeth wife of Cary Creed, gent. 16 June 1737, aged 48. Of Cary Creed, esq; their son, 18 Jan. 1775, aged 67. Also of the said Cary Creed, gent. 21 April 1775, aged 88.”

“ Here lyeth the body of James Napper, gent. who died Feb. 15th, A. D. 1658.”

“ Here lyeth the body of Anthony Abarough, gent. who deceased the 21st day of April, 1637.”-----With several others of that family.

On a black frame at the east end of the south aisle the following charities are recorded:

“ Gifts to this church and parish.

“ John Francis, gent. gave the interest of two pounds to this church for ever; and the interest of ten pounds to the poor at Easter for ever.

“ David Lewellin, gent. gave the interest of ten pounds to the poor at Easter for ever.

“ The aforesaid principal sums of ten pounds each were laid out in the purchase of Gibson's house, and the parish stock is charged with the payment of the said interest.

“ John Rufs, gent. gave the interest of ten pounds to the poor in bread, on All-Saints day for ever.

" John Lewis, gent. gave twelve shillings in bread to the poor on Good-Friday for ever, and charged his houses in Cary with the payment.

" Richard Cozens, gent. gave the interest of ten pounds to the poor on the 25th of March for ever.

" Edward Rufs, gent. gave ten shillings yearly to the parson, vicar, or curate of this parish, to preach a charity sermon the Sunday after the 6th of August for ever; and 20s. in bread to the poor for ever, to be distributed by the churchwardens the same day after the said sermon; and left a ground called Guy's-Close, in the parish of Almsford, charged with the payments thereof.

" Mrs. Eleanor Boucher gave one large damask communion cloth and napkin.

" William Swallow gave the gates of the church porch.

" Cary Creed, gent. gave forty pounds a year for ever to the second poor of this parish, to be distributed by the churchwardens and overseers on St. Thomas's-Day. And left William Pew and John Tidcomb his manor of Lovington, and estates in Castle-Cary and Almsford, chargeable with the payment thereof."

## A L F O R D.

A Small parish lying two miles west from Castle-Cary, and in the turnpike-road leading from that town to Iwelchester, in a low, flat, and woody situation. It contains twenty houses, seven of which are farms, the rest cottages.

It is only memorable for a mineral spring, situated about three quarters of a mile from the church, at a farm-house called *Alford Well*, and inclosed within a shed locked up. It is now quite neglected, although formerly it had such repute for its medicinal virtues, being used with success in cases of the scurvy, jaundice, and obstructions, that it was sought after from very distant parts.

We meet with this place in Domesday Book, under the title of *Aldedeford*, as the property of Earl Morton:

" Anſger holds of the earl ALDEDEFORD. Godric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is five carucates. In demefne is one carucate, and three servants, and seven villanes, and four bordars, and four cottagers, with two ploughs. There is a mill of seven shillings rent, and fifty acres of meadow, and from the villanes eight blomes of iron. It was worth one hundred shillings, now four pounds."

The Fitzpaines had this manor in later days, and it now belongs to John Willes, esq; who is also patron of the living.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.



It is a rectory in the deanery of Cary, valued in 1292 at 100s.<sup>b</sup> The Rev. John Phillips is the present incumbent.

The church, dedicated to All-Saints, consists of a nave leaded, and chancel and tower tiled, the latter containing three bells.

Against the north wall of the chancel is a monument of stone:-----“ In memory of Mercy the wife of Walter Harvey of this parish, gent. who died Dec. 22, 1734, ætat. 63.”-----Arms: On a bend *argent*, three trefoils slipped, *vert*, impaling a chevron *sable* between three boars heads . . . . .

There is a benefaction of ten pounds given by Mr. Francis to the second poor, and another of twenty pounds for the same use by Mr. Gregory.

<sup>b</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

## A L M S F O R D.

**H**ALF a mile northward from Castle-Cary lies Almsford, corruptly called Ansford, a small parish consisting of about thirty houses, part of which stand near the church, and the rest near the turnpike-road between Shepton-Mallet and Sherborne. The situation is pleasant, being in a very fruitful country, well wooded and finely diversified with hill and valley. The prospect westward is terminated by Blackdown and the Quantock hills, at the distance of about thirty miles.

This manor was at the time of the Conquest, and ever after, (as far as we can learn) held by the lords of Castle-Cary, with which at this day it composes one tithing. It is called in Domesday-Book, probably from some very ancient possessor before the Conquest, *Almundesford*:

“ Ulric holds of Walter [de Dowai] **ALMUNDESFORD**. Chetel held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is six carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and three servants, and five villanes, and four cottagers, with five ploughs. There is a mill of seven shillings and sixpence rent, and twenty acres of meadow, and twenty acres of pasture. A wood four furlongs long, and one and a half broad. When he received it, it was worth four pounds, now three pounds.”

*Almsford*, *Hadspen*, and *Honeywick*, have always been members of the manor of Castle-Cary, and the same records which refer to the one are applicable to the others.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Cary. The Rev. Mr. Woodford is the patron and incumbent. In the taxation of Pope Nicholas it is rated at six marks.<sup>b</sup>

The church, dedicated to St. Andrew, is a small but very neat structure of one pace, with a tower and three bells.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

Against the north wall of the chancel is a neat monument of white marble with this inscription:-----“ H. S. E. Samuel Woodforde, A. M. ecclesiæ de Castle-Cary vicarius, hujus item parochiæ annos magis quinquaginta rector indefessus, et honoratissimo comiti de Tankerville a sacris domesticus. Vir erat antiquis moribus, virtute, fide, pauperibus erogator largus; pater prudens ac providus; amicus certus, cordatus, fidus.——Eodem tumulo quiescunt cineres uxoris amatæ, æque ac amatissimæ, Janæ Woodforde, quæ per quadraginta fere annos in domesticis vitæ muneribus obeundis, plurimis antecellere, nulli forsan secunda videbatur. Amabiles in vita, nec in morte divisi sunt.

Illa prius obiit Feb. 8°, 1766, } Ætatis anno 60°.

Ille secutus Maii 16°, 1771, } 76°.

Valete suaves animæ, sed non æternum!

Filii mærentes posuerunt.”

In the floor:-----“ Here lieth the body of Thomas Cary, gent. who died Dec. 4, 1704, aged 61. And William his son, gent. who died Jan. 4, 1705. And Elizabeth his wife, who died May 7, 1712, aged 79.”

## B A B C A R Y.

**T**HE river Cary, rising at Castle-Cary, runs through, and gives its appellation to this place, to Little-Cary, or Cary-Fitzpaine, a hamlet in the parish of West-Charlton, and to Lites-Cary, from whence it passes under Cary-Bridge near Somerton, to Borough-bridge, and there falls into the Parret.

This parish lies about five miles to the east of Ivelchester, and seven southeast from Somerton, the turnpike-road from Wincanton to that town passing through it. Westward runs the Foss in a strait direction to the ancient Roman city of *Ivelchester*.

In the time of King William the Conqueror, we read that this place belonged to one of the name of Hunfridus or Humphry:

“ Humphry holds BABECARI. Bruno held it freely in the time of King Edward, and “ gelded for two hides and a half. The arable is three carucates; but in demesne are “ two carucates, and two servants, and six villanes, and three cottagers, with three “ ploughs. There are fourteen acres of meadow, and eight acres of pasture. It “ was formerly worth forty shillings, now fifty shillings. This is added to the lands “ of Brictric.”

This manor was very anciently held of the Barons Beauchamp of Hatch, by the family of D’Erleigh, or de Erlega, lords of Durston, Beckington, Michael’s-church, and North-Petherton.<sup>b</sup> It passed from them to the Seymours, the Bampfylde, and the Stawels, and is now the property of Lord Stawel.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> See the account of those manors.



There are two hamlets, STERT, and FARRINGDON. The former contains three houses, the latter eleven. 34 Hen. VI. John Gilbert, merchant, held jointly with Christiana his wife the manor of Stert in the parish of Babcary in socage, leaving William their son and heir.<sup>c</sup> In the time of Henry VIII. it was held under the name of Gilbert.<sup>d</sup> The vill of Farringdon has been written different ways; but its most ancient term is *Fodindone*, as we find it in the Norman survey:

“Hugh holds FODINDONE. Alward held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides, and one virgate of land. The arable is three carucates, and in all there are two villanes, and one cottager, and six servants, and fourteen acres of meadow. It was formerly worth thirty shillings, now forty shillings.”<sup>e</sup>

Another parcel of land of this name, is thus surveyed:

“Schelin holds FODINDONE. Bricstoward held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide, and one virgate and a half of land. The arable is two carucates, and there are on it one servant, and one cottager. There are six acres of meadow. It was and is now worth twenty shillings.”<sup>f</sup>

It afterwards was possessed by the successive lords of Babcary. There were chapels at both the hamlets of Stert and Babcary, which have long been in ruins.

The hospital of St. John at Wells had lands in Babcary so early as the reign of Edw. I.<sup>g</sup> The manor of Babcary was held of the abbey of Athelney.<sup>h</sup>

This parish contains fifty-two houses and about three hundred inhabitants.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Cary, and in the patronage of Lord Stawel: the Rev. Mr. Cheese is the present incumbent. In 1292, it was valued at twenty marks,<sup>i</sup> and the prior of Brewton received twenty shillings yearly out of it.<sup>k</sup>

The church is dedicated to the Holy-Cross, and consists of one aisle, and a strong embattled tower, containing five bells.

On a stone in the wall over the communion table is this inscription:-----“Under lyeth Elizabeth the wife of Jonathan Colmer, rector, and daughter of A. Clare, of Beamister in the county of Dorset, M. A. who died July 6, 1685. *Ætatis suæ* 42.”

On a mural monument of black stone:-----“H. S. E. Bridget Colmer, uxor Rev<sup>d</sup> viri Jonathan Colmer hujus parochiæ rectoris; mulier ob vitæ integritatem honeste conspicua, Christianæ religionis cultrix fidelis, abundans charitatis sine dolo, pietatis haud equidem perixigua faulrix, pudicitæ amatrix vera; conjux charissima, pietissima mater; omnibus amabilis, omnibus flebilis. In cælum migravit tertio die Maij, an. ætat. 58, Dom. 1724. Nescis quâ horâ—vigila.” Arms: three crescents between nine billets, impaling, a bar *ermine* between three roses.

<sup>c</sup> Efc. 34 Hen. VI.

<sup>d</sup> Terrar. Sydenham MS.

<sup>e</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>f</sup> Ibid.

<sup>g</sup> Plac. in Com. Somers. 8 Ed. I. Affis. Rot. 45. d.

<sup>h</sup> Regist. Abbat de Athelney.

<sup>i</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

<sup>k</sup> Taxat. Temporal.

"Near this place lies the body of Edward Colmer, rector of Bridport, who died March 12, 1766, aged 73. Memento mori."

"Near this place lies the body of Ann wife of the Rev. Mr. Edward Colmer, who died June 24, 1770. Aged 80."

In the south wall of the chancel:----"In memory of the Rev. William Stone. He died July 6, 1721; aged 26."

On a table of benefactions:

	£	s.	d.
"In 1669, ——— Cheek - - - - -	5	0	0
"1710, Richard Cooper - - - - -	1	1	0
"1728, Rev. John Colmer, rector - - - - -	3	0	0

charged on an estate called Welshe's. The interest to be given in bread to the second poor."

Amias Hext, B. D. rector of this place, was one of the sufferers in the great rebellion of the last century.

## B A R R O W - N O R T H.

A Small parish situated on rising ground, nine miles northeast from Ilchester, and containing about twenty houses, which form an irregular street near the church. From the church-yard there is a fine view across a rich woody vale to the hills about South-Cadbury and Corton-Dinham, and to the north and northwest along the south-east declivity of Mendip-hills, and eastward to Creech-hill and the adjacent country.

The manors of North and South-Barrow are not distinctly noticed in the Norman record, having been comprized within the great manor of Castle-Cary; by the successive lords of which, the Lovels, St. Maurs, and the Zouches, they were held 'till the attainder of John Lord Zouche, 1 Henry VII. when they were granted to Giles Lord Daubeny for life; the reversion to the heirs of the said Lord Zouche. In this name we find these manors held some years afterwards; for in a terrier of lands in this county, it appears that 5 Edw. VI. Richard Zouche was possessed of North-Barrow, and the advowson of the church; and that he the same year levied a fine of lands in South-Barrow.<sup>a</sup> In the reign of Queen Elizabeth Charles Zouche had a moiety of the manor; but it was afterwards alienated and became the property of the family of Portman, and the present lord both of North and South-Barrow is Henry William Portman, of Brianstone in the county of Dorset, esq.

By an inquisition taken at Ivelchester 29th Oct. 31 Henry VIII. it is set forth that John Abarough died 28th Sept. 30 Hen. VIII. seized of a capital messuage in North-

<sup>a</sup> Terrier MS.



Barrow, five hundred and twenty acres of arable land, forty acres of meadow, twelve of pasture, and two of wood, which he held of the manor of Castle-Cary.<sup>b</sup> This family had their names from the place, and flourished in these parts for many generations. John Abarough, of North-Barrow, married Margery daughter of William Gregory, and had issue John Abarough of Ditchet, who married Isabel daughter of Ralph Hannam, of Evercrich, esq; by whom he was father of Anthony his heir, and Hercules Abarough, and two daughters, Mary and Agnes.<sup>c</sup> Their principal place was at Ditchet; but they had many other estates in Somerset and Dorset. They bore for their arms, *Sable*, two swords in saltire *argent*, between four fleurs de lis *or*; a bordure *ermine*. Crest, a ferret *argent*, collared *or*, lined *azure*.

The benefice of North-Barrow is rectorial in the deanery of Cary, and in the patronage of the lord of the manor. The Rev. Mr. Butler is the present incumbent.

The church stands on an eminence, and is fifty-six feet in length, and fourteen in breadth, consisting of a nave, chancel, and porch tiled. A quadrangular tower at the west end, fifty feet in height, contains four bells. It is dedicated to St. Nicholas. The only inscription is on a mural monument of black stone to the memory of Thomas Wake, who died Feb. 26, 1770.

There was a chantry in the church of North-Barrow, the last incumbents of which were Thomas Crybbe, and John Gent, the former of whom received in 1553 a pension of 3l. 5s. 1d. the latter a pension of 1l. 6s.<sup>d</sup>

<sup>b</sup> Inq. post mort. Johis. Abarough, 31 Hen. VIII.

<sup>c</sup> Cook's Visitation of Somersetshire.

<sup>d</sup> Willis's Hist. of Abbies, ii. p. 202.

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## B A R R O W - S O U T H.

**S**OUTHWARD from the last-mentioned parish, and so denominated from its situation, is South-Barrow, a small parish, containing about the same number of houses as the other Barrow. It lies in a woody country, not much diversified with surface, but has a pleasing view of the hills near Cadbury and Corton, and a fine opening towards the north and west. The lands are mostly pasture, being cold and heavy; the arable less adapted to summer corn, but produces good beans and wheat.

The manor, as has been before observed, has gone conjointly with North-Barrow and Castle-Cary.

The church is a rectory in the deanery of Cary, and in the same patronage with North-Barrow; the Rev. Mr. Hughes is the present incumbent. No mention is made of either of these benefices in Pope Nicholas's taxation.

The

The church is a small structure of one pace, sixty feet long and fourteen wide, and contains nothing remarkable, nor any memorial, except the following old acrostick on a brass plate in the floor:

“ R eade and beholde my present state, which sheweth y<sup>e</sup> fatall dome:  
 I stood as yow, and yow as I to dust shall shortly come.  
 C ast of therfore this wretched worlde, his pleasant baits desie,  
 H is flowers are cutt and withered, in the twinklinge of an eie.  
 A nd when we die, most certainly, with ioyes or endles paine  
 R ewarded of a dreadfull Judge, our soules shall still remaine.  
 D eath is the dongeon of our sinnes, Jerusalem above  
 E ase, comfort, glory, hath for those, whom God doth derely love.  
 A s y<sup>e</sup> soule therfore in body weake, desired thee to embrace,  
 O f father dere, and now he lives before thy throne of grace.  
 R efuse I did this worlde alive, and now in clodd of claye  
 I leave this precept to my frends, which yet in earth do staie;  
 C are for the ioyes celestially, which cannot find their peerers  
 E ver saie in hart, this life shall laste, alas, but twenty peeres.”

### B A R T O N - D A V I D,

**S**O called from the dedication of its church, is a small parish five miles east from Somerton, and seven southeast from Glastonbury. It is situated on the banks of the river Brew, which divides it from Baltonsbury, in a low but fruitful country, well wooded with fine large elm trees, and sufficiently watered.

The number of houses is about forty, many of them very neat dwellings, and of inhabitants nearly two hundred and twenty.

This parish furnishes few subjects either in antiquity or in natural history, that merit particular remark. At the time of the Conquest it belonged to Roger de Curcelle, of whom it was held by one Norman:

“ Norman holds of Roger BERTONE. Alestan held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide and a half. The arable is two carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and two villanes, and four cottagers, with one plough. There is a mill of five shillings rent, and twenty-four acres of meadow, and as many of pasture. It was worth forty shillings, now thirty shillings.”<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.



This manor was sometime held of the abbey of Glastonbury by the family of Appul-ton, many of whose estates descended by a coheirefs to that of Pyne. It now belongs to the Rev. Mr. Wightwick in right of his wife, late Mrs. Keate of Somerton.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Cary, and was valued in 1292 at sixteen marks.<sup>b</sup> The Rev. Mr. Foster is patron and incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. David, is a small Gothick building sixty-three feet in length, and seventeen in breadth, consisting of a nave, chancel, and small aisle, covered with tiles. At the west end there stands an octangular tower forty-five feet high, containing four bells.

The north door-way is composed of a fine arch of Saxon workmanship.

In the church-yard is a tomb to the memory of the Bush family, and an ancient stone cross.

<sup>b</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

## CADBURY - NORTH.

**T**HIS is a considerable parish, five miles west from Wincanton, and eleven south from Shepton-Malet, situated on an eminence in a country well wooded and watered, and in good cultivation. A stream rising under Yarlinton-hill runs through this parish, under a stone bridge in the hamlet of *Brook-Lavington*, and another called *West-Bridge*, and turns a grist mill in the hamlet of *Galhampton*. Another stream rising at Blackford joins the above river near South-Cadbury, after turning two mills, and runs under a stone bridge of two arches in its way through Sparkford to the Ivel. Besides the above-mentioned hamlets, there are two others in this parish of the names of *North-Town* and *Woodston*.

In the time of William the Conqueror the manor of Cadbury, then written *Cadeberie*, was held by Turstin Fitz-Rolf, a Norman, who seems to have resided here on his own demesne. The record says,

“ Turstin himself holds CADEBERIE. Alwold held it in the time of king Edward, and gelded for twelve hides. The arable is twelve carucates. In demesne are three carucates, and six servants, and sixteen villanes, and twenty cottagers with eight ploughs, and one swineherd pays twelve pigs *per annum*. There are two mills of twenty-two shillings rent, and fifty acres of meadow, and seventy acres of pasture. A wood four furlongs long, and one furlong broad. It was worth twenty pounds, now twelve pounds.”<sup>a</sup>

A great sink in value:—but it must be observed, that this part of the county was much harassed by the incursions of the Danes, and the lands greatly impoverished by

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

the ravages of war. In a few years after the Conquest, this manor and that of Maperton became part of the barony of the lords Newmarch, who came over into England amongst the other followers of William duke of Normandy. 12 Hen. II. Henry de Novo Mercato accounted for the knight's fees which he held; and amongst the tenants are set down Geffery de Galehampton, and William de Cadeberi, both persons of this place, but now known only by their names.<sup>b</sup> He was succeeded in this lordship by James de Newmarch his brother and heir, who 6 Joh. gave two hundred marks for livery of his lands. He died, 17 Joh. leaving issue two daughters, his heirs, viz. Isabel married to Ralph Ruffell, and Hawise married first to John de Botreaux, and afterwards to Nicholas de Moels or Moels.

This Nicholas de Moels was a great person in the court of Henry III. in whose reign he served the several offices of ambassador, sheriff for divers counties, governor of the islands of Guernsey, Jersey, Sark, and Aureney, and governor of the castles of Rochester, Canterbury, Shirborne, Corf, Carmarthen, and Cardigan.

To this Nicholas succeeded Roger his son and heir, who 5 Edw. I. served in the wars against the Welsh, and 6 Edw. I. was appointed to the government of the castle of Llanbadarn-Vawr in the county of Cardigan. He married Alice, the daughter and heir of William de Preux, and died 23 Edw. I. seized of this manor, and the manors of Maperton and Halton, leaving John his son and heir twenty-six years of age.<sup>c</sup>

Which John de Moels married the daughter of Lord Grey of Ruthyn, and was one of the barons that sat in the parliaments of Edw. I. He died 3 Edw. II. and was succeeded in this manor by Nicholas de Moels his son and heir, twenty years of age.

This Nicholas de Moels, 4 Edw. II. was in the Scottish wars, and 5 and 9 Edw. II. had his summons to parliament, but died the last-mentioned year. He married Margaret daughter of Sir Hugh Courtney, knt. who after his death had for her dowry an assignation of this manor. She died 23 Edw. III. leaving Muriel the wife of Thomas Courtney, and Isabel the wife of Sir William de Botreaux, her cousins and heirs.

The manor of Cadbury came in the partition to Isabel the wife of Botreaux, who 23 Edw. III. had livery of the lands of her inheritance. This William de Botreaux was a knight, and descended from a very ancient family in Hampshire. 6 Steph. Gefferey Botereil, brother to Alan Earl of Richmond, distinguished himself for his valour against the forces of Maud the Empress, then besieging the castle of Winchester. After him came Hamon, William, William the second, Reginald, William the third, and the abovenamed William, who married the heiress of Moels. He died 33 Edw. III. leaving another William his son and heir, who the same year had livery of the lands.

Which William de Botreaux, who was also a baron, 8 Ric. II. entailed this his manor of North-Cadbury with other lands upon himself and Elizabeth his wife, the daughter of Sir Ralph Daubeney, knt. with remainder to William his son, and the heirs male of his body; and, for want of issue male, to Thomas, Ralph, and John, his younger sons, successively. He died 15 Ric. II. and William his eldest son, surviving him, inherited

<sup>b</sup> Lib. nig. Sacc. Gloucestre, 169, 170.

<sup>c</sup> Etc.



this manor. Elizabeth the wife of the above-mentioned Lord William Botreaux, and daughter of Sir Ralph Daubeney, rebuilt the parish church of North-Cadbury, and in 1427 procured a licence from King Henry VI. to erect and transfer the said foundation into a collegiate church, and to establish therein a perpetual college of seven chaplains, one of them to preside and have the government thereof, and to be called the rector of the college of Saint Michael the archangel of North-Cadbury, and four clerks to pray for the good estate of the King, as also for the good estate of her the said Elizabeth, and of Sir William Botreaux the younger, knt.<sup>d</sup> She died 11 Hen. VI. and the said William, afterwards Lord Botreaux, succeeded to the family estates.

Which William, by his deed bearing date 23 Sept. 37 Hen. VI. gave his manor of Yeovilton to the prior and convent of Bath, to the end that they should cause a mass to be celebrated daily in their church for the good estate of the King and Queen, and Edward Prince of Wales, as also for him the said William and Elizabeth then his wife; directing also, that three days before Easter (when mass should not be said) the sum of sixpence should be distributed to the poor of Bath in bread, in such portions as that each poor man might have the value of a farthing.<sup>e</sup> He died 2 Edw. IV. having ordered by his will his body to be buried in the church of North-Cadbury. This William was the last Lord Botreaux, leaving by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of John Lord Beaumont, one only daughter and heir, Margaret the wife of Sir Robert Hungerford, eldest son of Sir Walter Hungerford, knight,<sup>f</sup> descended from the barons Hungerford, of Farley Castle, and of Heytesbury. This Robert left issue by the said Margaret,

Thomas Lord Hungerford, who in the time of Edward IV. was beheaded for being in arms to restore King Henry VI.; but the attainder being reversed in parliament 1 Henry VII. Mary his sole daughter and heiress became entitled to the estates, which being immense in this and other counties of England, she carried together with the titles by marriage to Edward Lord Hastings, father of George the first Earl of Huntingdon of that surname. He died March 24, 36 Hen. VIII. and was succeeded by his son Francis, as second Earl of Huntingdon, who bore the titles of Hungerford, Botreaux, Moulins, and Moels; and dying June 23, 1561, was interred in the parish church of Ashby de la Zouch, in the county of Leicester. By Catherine his wife, eldest daughter and coheir of Henry Pole Lord Montacute, he was father of several children, of whom Sir Francis was of North-Cadbury, and knight in several parliaments for this county. He was author of several pieces, and a benefactor to Emanuel college in Cambridge. He married Magdalen, widow of Sir George Vernon, knt. and dying Sept. 26, 1610, was buried in the parish church, as was also his lady who died some years before him. This Sir Francis Hastings, having no children, sold the estate of both Cadburys to Richard Newman, esq; who was high-steward of Westminster, and was imprisoned by Oliver Cromwell for his attachment to King Charles the first, whom he attended in his troubles and supplied with large sums of money; in consideration of which services, King Charles the second granted the family an augmentation of their arms, viz. *Gules*, a portcullis

<sup>d</sup> Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.<sup>e</sup> Dugdale's Baronage, i. 630.<sup>f</sup> Ibid.

crowned *or*. From this Richard descended Sir Richard and Sir Samuel Newman, of Fifehide in Dorsetshire, where many of his family lie buried. The lineal descendant and present representative of this ancient family is Francis Newman, esq; who is lord of both the manors of North and South-Cadbury.

The manor-house stands near the church, and is a large handsome building, erected, as appears by a date over one of the doors in the great hall, in 1581.

The rectory of North-Cadbury (valued in 1292 at twenty marks<sup>s</sup>) was given by Henry the third Earl of Huntingdon to Emanuel college in Cambridge, in which it is now vested. It lies in the deanery of Cary, and the Rev. Mr. Askew is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel, was built (as has been before observed) by Elizabeth Lady Botreaux, about the year 1427, and is a large stately pile, consisting of a nave, two side aisles, and a vestry. At the west end is a large handsome tower, seventy-two feet high, embattled, with pinnacles at the angles, a clock, and six bells.

At the two east corners of the chancel are void niches, two feet and a half wide and ten high, for images, with the pedestals below, and richly ornamented Gothick canopies above, still remaining; one of the latter is profusely gilt. The pedestals are fourteen inches high.

On the north side of the chancel are two ancient tombs, the sides of which are covered with Gothick ornaments, carving, and cherubs holding the arms, which are now defaced. On one of them are the effigies in stone of Sir Francis Hastings, knt. in armour, and his Lady lying by his side. On the wall over the tomb is a brass plate with the following inscription:

“ The epitaph of that worthy religious lady the Ladye Magdalen Hastings, wife to Francis Hastings, knight, who departed this vaine and transitory life the 14th of June 1596, and continued a constant professor of God, his holye truth and gospell, to her lives end.

“ This Ladies bed, that heere you see thus made,  
Hath to itself received her sweete guest,  
Her life is spent, which doth like flower fade,  
Freede from all storms, and heere she lies at rest;  
Till soul and body joined are in one,  
Then farewell grave! from thence she must be gone.

“ This Lady was well borne and eke well bred,  
Her virgins time she spent with worthy praise;  
When choise of friends brought her to marriage bed,  
With just renowne she passed those her daies;  
And though her youth were tyde to age farr spent,  
Yet without spot she lived, and was content.

z Taxat. Spiritual.

“ Her



- " Her second match shee made by her own choice,  
 Pleasing herselfe who others pleased before;  
 Her ears shee stopt from all dissuaders voice,  
 Who did her tender wealth and goods great store;  
 With honour greate which both she did refuse,  
 And one of meaner state herself did chuse.
- " With this her choice full twenty yeares and nine  
 She did remain, with joy and comfort greate,  
 He liveth not that ever went between  
 These twoe, to move a peace, or to intreate;  
 God made the matche, and God the knot hee tyde,  
 Who in his feare did both their heartes still guide.
- " This feare of God was grafte in her by grace,  
 And her whole tyme shee spent in this true feare;  
 God's gospell pure with harte she did embrace,  
 The fruites whereof to all men did appeare;  
 To husband true, to kinred she was kinde,  
 And to all friends did beare a loving minde.
- " The preachers she did use with great regarde,  
 Which shewed her love unto this gospell pure;  
 Where want there was shee prest was to rewarde,  
 And by her will no such should want endure;  
 Unto the truth such was her zeal most rare,  
 As to helpe such shee from herselfe would spare.
- " The poore she willing was still to relieve  
 With hart and hand, not seeking worldlie praise,  
 For fewe or none should know what shee did give,  
 This course to keep shee careful was alwaies;  
 Both rich and poore they tasted of her love,  
 More ready still to helpe than they to move.
- " If any one of these her helpe did neede,  
 By being sicke or fore of any sorte,  
 Let them but send, they were most sure to speede  
 Of what shee had that might them yield comforte;  
 And yeare by yeare she fought such thinges to make,  
 To serve such turns as might be fitt to take.
- " In government of those that did her serve  
 Most wise, most stout, most kind, shee ever was,  
 Most kind to such as fought well to deserve,  
 Most stout to those who did neglect their place;  
 She wisely could correct the fault of these,  
 And those incourage that would seek to please.
- " These gifts of grace from God shee did receive,  
 And shee in these her life did wholly spende;  
 When sickness came, that did her health bereave,  
 On God's good will shee whollie did depende;

And then his grace did worke in her with might,  
For Him to please it was her whole delight.

"She did not grudge, or murmur at her paine,  
Though paines were greate, and lasted very long,  
She rested on her hope of future gaines,  
Than heart could thinke or could be tould with tongue;  
Comfortes she fought, because her flesh was fraile,  
By preachers sounde, which never did her faile.

"When that her sickness did her soe restraine,  
As that her house shee forced was to keepe,  
Shee did intreate three preachers to take paine  
Her to instructe and stay from dangers deepe.  
And this they did by turns one weeke bestowe,  
In love most sound till shee to weake did growe.

"When pangs grew great, she found but little rest,  
Yet faith was strong in God her Father deare,  
And from this faith shee found it alwaies best  
To praise her God, and praie to him in feare;  
And to this end the preachers shee would call  
To come to her, who failed her not at all.

"In all her dangers shee did never faile  
From day to day to crave their helpe in this,  
For them to seeke it did not much availe,  
For them to call shee did but seldom mis;  
Thrice many times, and most times twice a day,  
That she with them and they with her might pray.

"These weare the fruites of one that learned had  
To serve her God, in sickness, health, and all,  
In health to feare, in sickness to be gladd,  
Though flesh be fraile, and find itselfe in thrall;  
This fruite came not from father Adam's tree,  
Our second Adam taught her such to bee.

"This then shee was, and was unto the ende,  
This did shee shew, many can witness this;  
This to be true none neede doubt to defende,  
Wee rest in woe, and she is gone to blis;  
Where God this Ladye in his armes doth take,  
And crowne with glorie for Christ Jesus sake.

"VIVIT POST FUNERA VIRTUS."

On the fourth side of the chancel is a tomb bearing the date 1611, and the following arms cut in stone: *Azure*, a bar *sable* between two fleurs de lis *or*, impaling *gules*, three arrows *argent*. Crest, a duck *argent* rising.

Against the north wall there is a Latin inscription to the memory of the Rev. Tho. Iliff, S. T. P. of Emanuel college, Cambridge, and rector of this church, who died Feb.



Feb. 28, A.D. 1711, aged 58." Arms: *Argent*, on a chevron engrailed *sable*, between three estoiles *gules*, as many stags' heads cabossed, of the second, impaling, quarterly, first and fourth, *sable*, a cross engrailed *or*; second and third, a cross moline *argent*.

On the back of one of the old seats is this date:—

"Anno Domini M<sup>illm</sup>° cccc° xxxviii."

The christenings in this parish are twenty-three; the burials seventeen.

## C A D B U R Y - S O U T H

**I**S a small parish, situated southward of that last described, in a very populous and beautiful part of the county, the environs being pleasingly picturesque, and finely varied with well-cultivated hills, and fruitful vallies.

That this tract has been the scene of military action in ancient times, is sufficiently evident from its very name, which signifies the *Tower of War*,<sup>a</sup> were there no remains of martial antiquity extant to evince it. But here on the eastern side of the parochial church, at the northern extremity of a ridge of high hills, commanding an extensive prospect over Mendip and the Blackdown summits in Devonshire, stands one of the noblest fortifications in this or perhaps any other county, called by old topographers *Camalet*; but by the natives *Cadbury Castle*. Its form is neither entirely circular nor square; but somewhat between both, conforming to the shape of the hill. Part of it seems to have been hewn out of the solid rock, and is defended by four ditches, and within is a still higher intrenchment, of a circular form, which was the citadel, or *Prætorium*; but vulgarly called King Arthur's Palace. The rampart is composed of stones, now overspread with earth, and has only one entrance from the east, which is guarded by six or seven ditches. The area contains upwards of thirty acres. Within it, and in the ditches, have been found at different periods many noble relicks of the Roman empire; such as pavements, hypocausts, pateras, urns, fibulæ, and immense quantities of coins, chiefly of Antoninus and Faustina. There have also been discovered in its topmost area, remnants of arches, door-jambs, bolts, hand-grindstones, and great quantities of round pebble-stones, quite different from any in this county, and supposed to have been brought hither from the sea for the purpose of slinging, or shooting from the bow.<sup>b</sup> Leland tells us,<sup>c</sup> that a silver horse-shoe was found here within the memory of people living in his time; and Selden, in his notes on Drayton's *Polyolbion*, says, that it was full of ruins and old buildings.<sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup> The name is composed of the British word CATH, signifying war; and the Saxon Bury, a camp, or fortified eminence, which last was originally derived from the Greek Πύργος a tower.

<sup>b</sup> Stukely's *Itin.* cur. i. 150.

<sup>c</sup> *Itin.* i. 76.

<sup>d</sup> *Polyolbion*, p. 54.

Writers have been much divided as to the name of this fortification, and the time of its erection. The boldest assertion reaches to the days of King Arthur;<sup>e</sup> and the annotator of our historian NENNIUS places the eleventh battle of that King against the Saxons in this spot. *Undecimum fuit bellum in monte qui dicitur Agned-Cath-Regenion, quem nos Cath-bregon appellamus.*<sup>f</sup> Caer Celemon is likewise mentioned among the British cities of the same author. Drayton, speaking of the river Ivel, calls it

“ The nearest neighbouring flood to Arthur’s ancient seat,  
Which made the Britaines name through all the world so great.  
Like *Camelot* what place was ever yet renown’d?  
Where, as at *Carlion*, oft he kept the table round,  
Most famous for the sports at Pentecost so long,  
From whence all knightlie deeds, and brave atchievements sprong.”<sup>g</sup>

The name of this mountain truly, as it is called by Leland, Camden, Stukely, and others, CAMALET, favours something of one of the British names assigned to it, viz. *Caer-Celemon*, or *Caer-Calemion*; but the other, *Cath*, or *Caer-Bregon*, certainly comes nearer its present appellation *Cadbury-Castle*, which is commonly used by all the inhabitants of the vicinity, who know indeed no other. However, whether this were a work of the Britons or of the Romans, no doubt can possibly be maintained of its having been occupied by the latter people for a considerable space of time; as they erected here not only fabricks of temporary utility, but of great labour, and even magnificence. But what the Roman name hereof was, we must still be ignorant of. Stukely<sup>h</sup> judges it was the *Coloneas* of Ravennas, which others have put in another part of the island,<sup>i</sup> and we know of no station nearer Cadbury than *Ischalis*, our present Ivelchester.

<sup>e</sup> Leland speaks in the following emphatical terms concerning this fortress: “ *Fama publica Murotrigum, radices Camaletici montis incolentium, prædicat, attollit, cantitat, nomen Arturii, incolæ aliquando castrî, quod idem olim & magnificentissimum, & munitissimum, atque in editissima specula, ubi mons consurgit, situm est. Dii boni, quantum hic profundissimarum fossarum? Quot hic egestæ terræ valla? Quæ demum præcipitia? Atque, ut paucis finiam, videtur mihi quidem esse et artis et naturæ miraculum.*” Assertio Arturii, in vol. quinto Collectan. pp. 28, 29.

“ *At seges est ubi Troja fuit, &c.*

But now, where once the lofty towers uprear’d  
Their heads to heav’n, low grovels the rank herb,  
Upbraiding man’s device: and where the noise  
Of warrior shouted, now the bleat of sheep  
Is heard, full plaintive to the vale below.  
A pleasing contrast—That the din of war  
Is sunk in notes so innocent!—

<sup>f</sup> Nennii Banchor. Hist. Brit. cap. 62, p. 138. Edit. Bertr. Havniæ.

<sup>g</sup> Polyolbion, p. 48, 3d song. There are many places here and in the neighbourhood called by the name of King Arthur; as the Camp itself is denominated Arthur’s Palace; Arthur’s Round Table here mentioned; Arthur’s Kitchen; Arthur’s Well, &c. and Stukely tells us of a road across the fields under the castle, bearing very rank corn, called *King Arthur’s Hunting Calfseway*. Itin. i. 150.

<sup>h</sup> Itin. cur. i. 151. <sup>i</sup> Vide Anonymi Ravennatis Britanniae Chorographiam, ap. Antonini Itin. per Gale, vel ap. Horrelli Britan. Roman. p. 491.

The



The Saxons simply called this place *Sudcadeberie*, nor is there such a name as *Camalet* in the Norman survey. It belonged in King William the Conqueror's time to Turstin Fitz-Rolf, and included the two villis of *Holton* and *Clapton*.

"Bernard holds of Turstin, *SUDCADEBERIE*. Alwold held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three virgates of land. There are added two hides, and one virgate of land, which four thanes held freely in the time of King Edward. In all the arable is three carucates. Bernard has two hides; a Clerk half a hide; an Englishman half a hide. It was and is worth three pounds. All these lands are added to the lands of Alwold which Turstin holds."

"There is also added one hide in *ULTONE*, which Alnod held freely in the time of King Edward. The arable is one carucate. Leviet holds it of Turstin, and has there one servant, and three cottagers, and four acres of meadow, and three acres of coppice wood. It is worth ten shillings."

"There is further added *CLOPTONE*. Alnod held it freely in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides. The arable is three carucates. Ralph holds it of Turstin, and has there one plough, with one villane, and four bordars, and two servants. There are ten acres of meadow, and four furlongs of wood in length, and two furlongs in breadth. When he received it, it was worth forty shillings, now twenty shillings."

This manor, as well as that of North-Cadbury, was possessed by the Lords Moels, and descended by an heiress of Sir John de Moels to Thomas Courtney, fourth son of Hugh de Courtney senior, Earl of Devon. Which Thomas left issue Sir Hugh de Courtney his heir, and two daughters, viz. Margaret the wife of Sir Thomas Peverell, and Muriel the wife of Sir John Dinham. This manor was allotted to Margaret Peverell, and so descended by a coheiress to Sir Walter Hungerford, and afterwards passed in the same manner as North-Cadbury, being now the possession of Francis Newman, esq. The family de Bosco, or Boyse, were for a long succession tenants in this manor under the Courtneys, and the Pauncefoots.<sup>1</sup>

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Cary, and was valued in 1292 at ten marks.\* The lord of the manor is the patron, and the Rev. Mr. Baily the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Thomas a Becket, stands on rising ground, and is a small but very neat edifice, consisting of a nave, chancel, south aisle, and a porch on the north side, all covered with tile. An embattled tower at the west end contains five bells.—The chancel has an elegant altar-piece, on the tablet of which is a very good painting of our Saviour on the cross. Against the north wall of the chancel there is a monument of white marble to the memory of the Rev. George Farewell, A. M. rector of this church, who died April 6, 1717, aged 41.

There are three springs which break out from the sides of Cadbury-Hill; one by the principal entrance on the northeast side, called King Arthur's well: Another on the north side, called Queen Anne's wishing well, inclosed in an elegant semicircular basin. The other spring is nameless.

\* Lib. Domesday.

<sup>1</sup> Etc.

■ Taxat. Spiritual.

## CAMEL-QUEENS, otherwise EAST-CAMEL;

A Considerable parish, situated on a river of its name, nine miles west from Wincanton, and five southeast from Ivelchester, in a country rather flat and woody. It comprises a small town, consisting chiefly of one street tolerably wide, but ill built; the number of houses about ninety-three, of inhabitants about five hundred and thirty, including the hamlets of HAZLEGROVE and WALES, which contain about twelve houses. About half a mile to the south is a hill, from which is one of the most pleasing views in the county, the lands being very rich and well-timbered for many miles round, and upwards of forty towns and villages are to be seen from it with the naked eye.

This place had its additional name from its having been formerly vested in the Queens of the realm. At the time of the Conquest it was the demesne of the King.

“The King holds CAMEL. Ghida held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for eight hides and a half: but there are fifteen hides. The arable is fifteen carucates. In demesne there are five hides, and four carucates, and six servants, and twenty-eight villanes, and ten cottagers, with eleven ploughs. There are two mills of twenty shillings rent, and one hundred acres of meadow, and one hundred acres of pasture, and one hundred acres of wood. It yields twenty-three pounds of white money.”

Although granted out at several times to different favourites, this manor has generally been vested in the crown, and held of it by knight's service.<sup>b</sup> The Earls of Kent and Salisbury were the chief tenants. But an inquisition of 3 Edward I. sets forth that this manor, which was sometime ancient demesne of the King, re-escheated to the crown by the death of William de Romare without issue, and that the King of England afterwards gave it to Lord Lumbart de Burgh, father of John Lord Burgh the elder.<sup>c</sup> 14 Hen. III. Thomas de Cirencestre, sheriff of this county and Dorset, stocked this manor of the King with cattle and seed-corn, as follows, viz. thirty-two oxen for four ploughs, price eight shillings the ox; sixteen heifers, at half a mark each; three hundred sheep, at twelve-pence; forty-two quarters of corn, at four shillings a quarter; seventy-five quarters of oats, at three shillings a quarter; five quarters of beans, at two shillings and eleven-pence; and also two cart-horses, value sixteen shillings.<sup>d</sup> In the time of Philip and Mary this manor was exchanged for the manor of Great-Weldon in Suffolk, belonging to Sir Walter Mildmay, knt. in which family it has been ever since, and is now the property of Mrs. Ann Hervy Mildmay, (daughter and heiress of the late Carew

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> See the Inquisitions and Crown Charters. <sup>c</sup> Esc. 3. Edw. I.

<sup>d</sup> Mag. Rot. 14 Hen. III.

<sup>e</sup> This Gentleman, who was the last surviving male of this respectable family, was buried in the chancel of the parish church of Sherborne in Dorsetshire, A. D. 1784; where a very handsome monument is erected to his memory. On this monument there are the following memorials relative to the family:—

“The family of Mildmay may by ancient deeds be traced back to the reign of King Stephen. In the reign of King Henry VIII. lived Sir Thomas Mildmay of Chelmsford, who left four sons, from whom this family spread



Hervy Mildmay, esq;) who has a handsome mansion, called Hazlegrove, situated about one mile and a half northward of the church.

The church of East-Camel, valued in 1292<sup>1</sup> at twenty marks, was appropriated to the abbey of Clyve in this county, which was a cell to that of Bec in Normandy. It is a vicarage in the deanery of Marston, and in the presentation of Mrs. A. H. Mildmay. The Rev. Thomas Horner Pearson is the present incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Barnabas, consists of a nave, chancel, north and south aisles, belfry, and porch; the whole leaded except the porch and chancel. At the west end is a large tower ninety feet high, containing a clock and six bells.

In the south aisle is an elegant mural monument, of black and grey marble, inscribed,

“Near this place lyeth the body of Humphrey Mildmay, esq; lord of this manor. second son of Sir Humphrey Mildmay, of Danbury in the county of Essex. He sustained several wounds in the wars for his loyalty to his prince King Charles the First; particularly at Newbury fight, where he served as major under his uncle the Earl of Cleveland, and was taken up among the slain. His first wife was Sarah the daughter of Thomas Freke, esq; of Hinton St. Mary in Dorsetshire. His second wife was Sarah the daughter of Edmund Parker, esq; of Burrington in Devonshire. He died on the 19th day of November 1690, aged 67, and, having no issue, left his estate to his kinsman Carew Mildmay, esq; of Marks in the county of Essex, who, in token of his gratitude, erected this monument.” Arms, *Argent*, three lions rampant *azure*, two and one.

Near the above is a monument to Edith, wife of Carew Hervy Mildmay, and daughter of Sir Edward Phelips, of Montacute. She died Oct. 12, 1772.

In the south wall there is an arch, under which formerly lay the effigies of a knight. The font is ancient, and has been curiously decked with sculpture, but retains no arms.

In this parish, opposite to the hamlet of Wales, and within three feet of the river's side, rises a very remarkable spring, very cold to the touch, and offensive to the smell, which is much like that of burnt gunpowder mixed with common water. It has been used with much success in scrophulous cases.

It has a charter for four fairs annually, and two markets weekly; and was a town of some note before it was burnt, which happened about one hundred and ninety years

spread into several branches, principally in the county of Essex. From the eldest, Sir Thomas of Moulsham-hall, descended the late Benjamin Earl of Fitzwalter; also Sir Walter, of Pishobury in Hertfordshire. From the second son, Sir William of Springfield-Barnes, descended the late Sir William, of Moulsham-hall, bart.; Sir Henry, of Graces; Walter, of Potlands; Carew Hervy, of Marks, who was adopted heir of Sir Gawen Hervy; Humphrey, of Shawford in Hampshire; and George, whose only daughter married Henry Eaton, esq; of Raynham-Lodge. The third son of Sir Thomas was John Mildmay, of Tarling-Place. The fourth son was Sir Walter, of Danbury-Place in Essex, and of Apthorpe in Northamptonshire, (which last estate, by the marriage of the only daughter of his eldest son Sir Anthony to Francis Earl of Westmoreland, passed into that family.) This Sir Walter was chancellor of the exchequer, and a privy counsellor to Queen Elizabeth, and was the founder of Emanuel college in Cambridge. From him also descended John, of Danbury-Place; Humphrey, of Hazlegrove in Somersetshire; and Henry, of Wanstead in Essex, and of Shawford in Hants.

<sup>1</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

ago. It has now only two fairs annually; one on Trinity Thursday, the other on the 25th of October.

The christenings for the last twenty years have amounted to two hundred and ninety-seven, and the burials to two hundred and forty-four.

## COMPTON-PAUNCEFORD.

**T**HIS parish lies five miles southwest from Wincanton, and eight miles east from Ivelchester, under the east and southeast ridge of a high range of hills, on the edge of a very fruitful vale, with the church and town of North-Cadbury on the opposite side on elevated ground, and about a mile distant. The number of houses is thirty-seven, and of inhabitants about two hundred and twenty. Almost every house has a fine orchard and little garden; they are mostly decent dwellings, and stand near the church. A stream runs through this parish, which rises at a spot called *Laverfwell*, in the hamlet of Hatherleigh, in the parish of Maperton, and in its way down divides the parishes of North and South Cadbury, passing on to Sparkford, Weston-Bampfylde, Queen-Camel, and Yeovilton, where it falls into the Ivel.

The manor belonged in the Conqueror's time to Turstin Fitz-Rolf, lord of South-Cadbury, Maperton, and other manors in this neighbourhood.

"Goisfrid holds of Turstin, CUNTONE. Alward held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for six hides. The arable is six carucates. In demesne is half a carucate, and four servants, and nine villanes, and eleven cottagers, with five ploughs. There is a mill of eight shillings rent, and fifteen acres of meadow. A wood four furlongs long, and one furlong broad. It is worth one hundred shillings."<sup>a</sup>

Its lords after the Conquest were the family of Pauncefote, sometimes styled in records de Cumtone, from whom the place derived the addition to its name. It is not easy to trace the pedigree of this family to its fountain-head, and we must be content with a few extracts from ancient documents. In the time of Henry II. Walter de Pancefot held lands in Maperton of Alexander de Alno.<sup>b</sup> In the same reign Mabel Pancefot appears upon record as fined in the sum of six pounds three shillings and four-pence, for leave that a duel between her and Robert Pancefot her brother might be prevented.<sup>c</sup> 9 Edw. II. John de Pauncefot held one knight's fee in Compton-Pauncefot.<sup>d</sup> 11 Edw. III. Margaret the late wife of Nicholas de Moels held in dower of the heir of Muriella and Isabella, daughter and heir of John de Moels deceased, one knight's fee in Compton, by reason of the minority of Nicholas Pauncefot, son and heir of John Pauncefot.<sup>e</sup> In the beginning of the reign of Hen. VII. Walter Pauncefort held this

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> Cart. Antiq.

<sup>c</sup> Mag. Rot. 31 Hen. II.

<sup>d</sup> Lib. Feod.

<sup>e</sup> Inq. post. mort. Margarette de Moels, 11 Edw. III.



manor, and from him it descended by Maud his daughter and coheir to John Brent, of Cossington, esq. To whom succeeded William and Richard, whose daughter Anne was married to Thomas Lord Paulet, and was mother to Elizabeth wife of Giles Hoby, esq; whose family seems to have alienated it. It is now the property of John Hunt, esq.

The church was valued in 1292 at ten marks.<sup>f</sup> It is a rectory in the deanery of Cary, and in the presentation of the lord of the manor. The Rev. Mr. Hunt is the present incumbent. A chantry was founded in this church by one of the family of Pauncefoot,<sup>g</sup> of which the last incumbent, whose name was Robert Bryce, received in 1553 a pension of five pounds.<sup>h</sup>

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and is a small Gothick structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, and south aisle, covered with tile. There is a tower and stone spire at the west end, the whole sixty feet high, with three bells.

At the east end of the aisle are two very neat mural monuments of white, black, and variegated marbles. On the tablet of one is this inscription:

"Here underneath lyeth the body of John Hunt, esq; who departed this life the 3d of April 1660, aged about 94 years.—And also the body of Elizabeth wife of Robert Hunt, esq; and daughter of John Brown, of Frampton in the county of Dorset, esq. She was married the 24th of September 1635, and dyed the 24th of September 1675, aged 65 years and 5 months.—Here also lyeth the body of Robert Hunt, esq; who, after he had served his generation many years, died Feb. 20, 1679, aged about 71.—And also the body of Elizabeth wife of John Hunt, esq; daughter of Charles Roscarrock, of Roscarrock in the county of Cornwall, esq. She died 13th of January 1697.—This monument was erected by John Hunt, esq; in memory of his dear parents, and beloved wife, A.D. 1698." Arms: *Azure*, two chevronels between 3 martlets *argent*, impaling *argent* on a chevron *fable*; between 3 cranes *azure*, as many escallop shells *or*. Crest, an arm sinister rising from a murion.

The second is a neat plain monument, inscribed,—"In memory of William Bragge, esq; of Hatfield-Peverel in Essex, who died Oct. 24, 1778, aged 70.—And also Elizabeth his wife, who died May 24, 1741, aged 30. She was daughter of John Hunt, esq; of this place." Arms, *Or*, a chevron between 3 bulls *fable*, impaling Hunt. Crest, a bull's head *fable*, gorged *or*.

On a stone in the floor:—"Here lieth the body of Grace Hunt, who died the 24th day of July 1708. A virgin enriched with many virtues."

Near the above:—"D.O.M. Here lyeth the body of John Hunt, esq; who died April 26, A.D. 1721, aged 82 years. A lover of God, his King, and his Country."—Arms: HUNT, impaling, parted quarterly, four stags statant.

<sup>f</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

<sup>g</sup> Excerpt. c Regist. Wellen.

<sup>h</sup> Willis's Abbies, ii. 202.



## K E N T O N - M A N D E V I L L

**I**S a small parish, situated four miles and a half eastward from Somerton, and in the turnpike-road thence to London by Salisbury. The situation is lofty and very pleasant; the number of houses is thirty, forming a long street in the shape of an L. These houses are very neat, being built of stone, neatly chipped, and dug in the parish. As this is a very fine kind of slab stone, it demands particular observation. It is found in an open arable field in the highest ground, from two to four feet below the surface, (which is a yellowish clay inclining to brick earth) to a very great depth, lying in strata or layers nearly horizontal from northeast to southwest, the layers being from two and a half to six inches in thickness. Between each layer of stone is a stratum of earth from three to six inches in thickness, and of various kinds, increasing in density as they descend. At about eight or ten feet below the surface, the stratum of earth is a blue strong loam or marl; but does not much effervesce in vinegar.

The stone is a very fine hard kind of blue lias, or lime-stone, in which (the uppermost layers especially) are a few small *Cornua Ammonis*, and many species of bivalve shells, particularly a kind of *Venus*, depressed and striated in so peculiar a manner, that it appears to be a non-descript. Here are also many of the gryphites, and the small long flat oyster, with some pectens. Some of the veins of this stone contain pyrites, but very little spar; in others a metallic substance of a rusty iron colour is found, which on attrition has a strong sulphureous smell. Great quantities of this stone are raised, and sent to considerable distances for paving rooms and walks, and for grave-stones. If suffered to be thoroughly dry before they are put up, they stand the frost without scaling for many years. The layers of this stone are so smooth, that they require little labour; but will not receive a good polish. They are commonly raised from ten to thirty feet in length, and often twelve or fifteen wide. One was lately raised upwards of forty feet in length, and so wide that it contained five hundred superficial feet. The same kind of stone is found in the neighbouring parishes of Butleigh and King-Weston.

Near the quarries a fine spring issues out of the rock, forming a brook, which empties itself into the river Brew at Barton St. David, about two miles to the north. This brook is remarkable for being highest in dry seasons, and lowest in wet. Here are three large common fields, and the lands are mostly in tillage.

The manor of KENTON was, as we learn from *Domesday-Book*, in the time of Edward the Confessor, appendant to that of Barton, now called Barton St. David.

“ In this manor (viz. BERTONE) lay CHINTONE in the time of King Edward. There is one hide. Earl Morton holds it.”

“ Malger holds of the Earl, CHINTUNE. Two thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is five carucates. In demesne are three carucates, and five servants, and two villanes, and four bordars, with one



“cottager, having one carucate and a half. There are thirty acres of meadow. It is worth four pounds.”<sup>b</sup>

The Mandevilles, who were the subsequent lords of this manor, and from whom it assumed its name, were descended from Geoffrey de Magnaville, a famous foldier, who came over into this country with Duke William the Norman, and having displayed extraordinary valour in the battle of Hastings,<sup>c</sup> was by him rewarded with one hundred and eighteen manors in different counties of England, and was also appointed constable of the Tower of London, an office he held during the whole of his life.<sup>d</sup>

William de Magnaville, his son and heir, suffered his name corruptly to be changed into Mandeville, by which his descendants were ever after denominated. He married Margaret the sole daughter and heir of Eudo, steward to King William, and was father of Geoffrey Mandeville, who succeeded to the estates, and had by descent from his mother the high office of steward of Normandy. He was also constable of the Tower of London; and, being in favour with King Stephen, was by that prince advanced to the title and dignity of Earl of Essex, being the progenitor of four successive Geffreys Earls of Essex, the last of whom was created Earl of Gloucester by King John, and was in 1216 succeeded by his brother William Mandeville, who left no issue.

A branch of these Mandevilles, Earls of Essex, flourished here for a considerable time after. 11 Edw. I. it was found by an inquisition then taken, that Geffrey Maundeville had died seized of the manor of Kenton, then called Kington, and the jurors affirmed that of all the land the said Geffrey held in this place, before the prior of the hospital of St. John at Wells had been enfeoffed with part thereof, only one suit was due to the King's hundred of Catash; and that the said Geffrey and his heirs ought to acquit the prior from that suit.<sup>e</sup>

By another inquisition it appeared that the lands and tenements held here by the prior of St. John's consisted of eight messuages, one dove-house, eleven acres of arable, and eleven acres and three roods of meadow ground.<sup>f</sup>

At this present day the manerial rights, together with some estates, are annexed to and held with the living of Longbridge-Deverell in the county of Wilts.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Cary, and in 1292 was valued at six marks.<sup>g</sup> The Rev. Edmund Gapper is the present patron and incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, stands at the southern extremity of the village, and is an edifice of a singular construction, fifty-four feet in length, and eighteen in breadth, consisting of a nave and chancel covered with tile. From the north side of the nave, an arched passage, eight feet long and four wide, leads into the tower, which is an octagon of eleven feet diameter, and forty feet high, terminated by a conical roof tiled, and containing three small bells.

On the left side of the communion-table there is a mural monument of stone, inscribed to the memory of several of the family of the Rev. Joseph Dauncey.—Near it, another

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>c</sup> Mon. Ang. ii. 446.

<sup>d</sup> Dugd. Bar. i. 200.

<sup>e</sup> Esc. 11 Edw. I.

<sup>f</sup> Esc. 15 Edw. II.

<sup>g</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

to Rebecca his wife.—And a third, to the Rev. William Clarke, rector of this parish, who died Feb. 9, 1751, aged 49.

There is only one pauper in this parish, most of the poor finding employment in the quarries and in husbandry. The women spin, and knit hose for the Glastonbury manufacture.

## K I N G - W E S T O N .

**T**HIS place is very corruptly called; its ancient name being *Chinwardestune* and *Kinwardestore*, which signifies the town or habitation of *Kinward*, a Saxon noble.

It is finely situated on high ground, twelve miles south from Wells, and commanding a pleasing prospect of great part of Dorsetshire. The village consists of twenty-one houses, most of which are of fine blue stone, and in general very neat handsome buildings, forming a street nearly half a mile in length, which is a very fine road, inclosed with walls between the houses, with rows of elms in the inclosures. Upon the whole, this is one of the neatest and most pleasing villages in the county.

The place is of great antiquity, having sometime belonged to the Saxon kings. Kinward, its owner, was a thane of royal extraction. In the time of King Edward the Confessor, Ulveva, who in all probability was allied to Kinward, possessed it. But at the coming in of the Normans the manor was seized on by King William, and, together with seven others in this county, was given to Eustace Earl of Bulloigne in Picardy.<sup>a</sup> The Norman record gives us the following particulars of this place:

“Ida Countess of Bolonia holds of the King, CHINWARDESTUNE. Ulveva held it “in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is eight carucates. Thereof in demesne are two hides, and three virgates; and there are two “carucates, and six servants, and eight villanes, and eight cottagers, with five ploughs. “There are twenty-five acres of meadow, and twenty-two acres of pasture. A wood “three furlongs long, and one acre broad. It was and is worth six pounds.”<sup>b</sup>

By the above account it should appear that Earl Eustace had transferred his right in this manor to his lady for her separate use, or at least that the King had reserved it for her private benefit; for although all the other tenants are said to hold their lands of the Earl, this Ida is certified to hold this manor *de Rege*, of the King. However, it continued in the same line of possession till the year of our Lord 1114,<sup>c</sup> when Mary Countess of Bulloigne, who was sister to Queen Maud, the wife of Henry the First, conferred it with all its appertinances on the Cluniac abbey of Bermondsey, in the

<sup>a</sup> This Earl Eustace was father of the famous Godfrey of Bulloigne, who won Jerusalem from the Saracens;

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>c</sup> Mon. Angl. i. 640.



county of Surry; and shortly after Earl Eustace her husband confirmed the grant. In 1293 the possessions of that abbey in this place were rated at ten pounds,<sup>d</sup> but in after times it received from the manor an annual income of forty-eight marks.<sup>e</sup>

On the dissolution of that monastery, King Henry VIII. by patent bearing date the 12th of June, in the 37th year of his reign, granted, amongst other things, the manor of King-Weston with the advowson of the rectory, to James Tutt and Nicholas Hame, and their heirs. Which said patentees, by deed dated 26th September the same year, granted the same to Sir Thomas Moyle, knt. and his heirs. Sir Thomas left two daughters coheiresses, of whom Catherine was the wife of Sir Thomas Finch, and Amy the wife of Thomas Kempe, esq; of Aspley in Bedfordshire. Sir Thomas Moyle by his will left this manor and advowson to Thomas Kempe, son of Amy his second daughter, who 16 Eliz. sold the same to Matthew Smyth, of Long-Ashton, esq. To which Matthew Smyth succeeded herein Sir Hugh Smyth, knt. Thomas Smyth, esq; Sir Hugh, knight of the Bath and baronet, and Sir John Smyth, bart. who in the year 1723 sold the same to Edmund Bower, of Somerton, gent. Becoming by an heiress of Bower the property of Mr. Swadling, it was finally sold to Caleb Dickinson, of Bristol, esq; father of William Dickinson, esq; the present owner.

This place is memorable for a very signal defeat which the rebels of Devonshire and Cornwall experienced 3 Edw. VI. from the conduct of Sir Hugh Powlet, knt. who pursued them hither after their discomfiture by the King's forces at Exeter, and took their leader prisoner.

The church at King-Weston, valued in 1292 at six marks<sup>f</sup> and twelve-pence, was appropriated to the abbot and convent of Bermondsey above-mentioned. It is a vicarage in the deanery of Cary; the Rev. Mr. Collinson is the present incumbent.

The church is a small but neat building, situated on the highest part of the parish, and almost surrounded with lofty elms and chesnut trees. It consists of a nave, chancel, and small square aisle or chapel, (belonging to the lord of the manor) with an embattled tower containing a clock and three bells.

Against the north wall of the chancel is an elegant monument of black and white marble thus inscribed:—"M. S. Caleb Dickinson hîc sepulti, qui obiit 6<sup>to</sup> Aprilis 1783; et Saræ uxoris apud Bristoliam sepultæ, quæ obiit 1<sup>mo</sup> Julii 1766. Posuit Gulielmus filius anno 1783."—Arms: *Or*, a bend engrailed between two lions rampant *gules*, Dickinson. Over all on an escutcheon of pretence, *argent*, a pale fuselly *gules*, within a bordure *azure*, fitché *or*. Holloway.

On a flat stone in the chancel:—"Here resteth the body of William Woodhouse Clark, M. A. late Prebendarie of Wormister, and Vicar of Butley, who died the 20th of Sept<sup>r</sup> 1642."

In the chancel is deposited a chair formerly belonging to Glastonbury abbey. It is of oak, the back divided into two compartments, embellished with Gothick carvings

<sup>d</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

<sup>e</sup> Archer's Account of Religious Houses.

<sup>f</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

in relief; on one-side a shield bearing a crozier with the initials R. W. (for Richard Whiting, the last abbot of Glastonbury) and on the other side a shield charged with a cross botoné, between two leopards' heads in chief, and in base two cinquefoils. This chair was purchased by the late Mr. Dickinson of Mr. More of Greinton, and deposited here as a relic of monastical antiquity.

## L O V I N G T O N,

A Small parish lying on the river Brew, seven miles eastward from Ilchester, in a flat and woody country, abounding with fine elms and rich pastures. The turnpike road from Castle-Cary to Ivelchester runs through it, at the distance of about a mile northward from the church. The number of houses is twenty-three, and ten of them farms.

In ancient times this place must have been much more considerable than at present, for we learn from the Norman Survey that in the time of King Edward it composed three distinct manors, held by as many Thanes or Saxon nobles, who were all assessed at the rate of six hides, or between six and seven hundred acres. King William the Conqueror, wresting it from its former possessors, gave the whole place to one Serlo de Burci, a person of his train, who held it with some other places in this vicinity in demesne. The Survey says,

“Serlo himself holds LOVINTUNE. Three Thanes held it in the time of King Edward for three manors, and gelded for six hides. The arable is eight carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and two servants, and eight villanes, and nine cottagers, with six ploughs. There is a mill of ten shillings rent, and forty acres of meadow. Wood four furlongs long, and two furlongs broad. It was formerly worth six pounds, now one hundred shillings.

“Of this land Lanbert holds one hide, and has there one carucate with three villanes. There are twelve acres of meadow. It is worth twenty shillings.”<sup>a</sup>

This manor was afterwards possessed by the very ancient family of Fitz-Martin, who were lords also of West-Lydford and Blagdon. 10 Edw. I. Nicholas Fitz-Martin held it.<sup>b</sup> 19 Edw. II. William Fitz-Martin died seized of it.<sup>c</sup> In the same reign William de Lovington held half a knight's fee here.<sup>d</sup> 19 Ric. II. William Banister is found by the inquisitions to have died seized of this manor.<sup>e</sup> It afterwards passed to the Rodney family, of whom Thomas Rodney held it 10 Edw. IV. of Anne Duchefs of Exeter, by knight's service.<sup>f</sup> To him succeeded Sir John Rodney, knt. Waiter, John, Maurice, and George;<sup>g</sup> which last married Anne daughter of Matthew

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.    <sup>b</sup> Efc.    <sup>c</sup> Ibid.    <sup>d</sup> Lib. Feod.    <sup>e</sup> Efc.    <sup>f</sup> Ibid.    <sup>g</sup> Ex Stemmat.



Smyth, eſq; and ſettled this manor among ſeveral others on the ſaid marriage. Not many years ſince it was the property of Cary Creed, of Caſtle-Cary, eſq; who deviſed it to William Pew, and John Tidcombe, gent. of Caſtle-Cary above-mentioned, who are at this time the joint poſſeſſors of this manor.

The living is a perpetual curacy in the deanery of Cary, and in 1292 was rated at ſeven marks and a half.<sup>h</sup> The perpetuity is veſted in the Rev. James Leach.

The church, which according to Eſton is dedicated to St. Thomas Becket, is a ſmall ſtructure, and contains nothing remarkable.

Over the ſouth door is the following memorandum:

“ Mr. John Whitehead, who died May the 24th 1715, gave a ground called Brandiers, lying at Fodington in the pariſh of Babcary, for the ſchooling of poor children for ever. Mr. James Clarke gave a houſe for a ſchool-houſe, and to be connected with the ground given by Mr. Whitehead.

“ Thomas Wallis gave twelve ſhillings to be paid to the ſecond poor labouring men on Chriſtmas-Day for ever, and ſettled a ground called Hewiſh for the payment of the ſame.”

<sup>h</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

## L Y D F O R D - W E S T.

**T**HIS place evidently obtained its name from its ſituation, there having been in ancient times a broad<sup>a</sup> ford here over the river Brew, which runs through the pariſh, and has over it a good ſtone bridge near the church. It lies on the weſtern ſide of the great ſoſs road which paſſes hence to Ivelcheſter, from which it is diſtant ſeven miles towards the north. The country is low, flat, and woody, and the ſoil being in general a cold wet blue clay, is not very fertile. The lands are chiefly paſture, worth from five to thirty ſhillings an acre. The number of houſes within the pariſh is ſeventy-one, forty of which are farms, two grift-mills, two publick-houſes, and the reſt cottages. Moſt of the houſes are very neat, being built of the fine blue Kenton ſtone, chipped very ſmooth, and tolerably well thatched, forming a decent ſtreet near the church.

Here are two fairs, the one on Holy-Thurſday, the other on the twelfth day of Auguſt. This laſt fair was obtained of King Henry III. in the forty-fourth year of his reign, by William Martin, then lord of this place, who likewiſe procured under the ſame charter a market to be held here on the Tueſday of every week;<sup>b</sup> but this has long ſince been diſcontinued.

<sup>a</sup> LLYDAN in the Britiſh language ſignifies broad.

<sup>b</sup> Cart. 44 Hen. III.

The Norman Survey thus describes this place:

“ Aluric [a thane] holds LIDFORD. Brietric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for nine hides. The arable is eight carucates. There are seven ploughs, and six villanes, and nine bordars, and two cottagers, and eight fervants. There is a mill of fifteen shillings rent, and sixty acres of meadow, and thirty acres of pasture, and one mile of wood in length and breadth, and a breeder of swine renders ten hogs. It was, and is now, worth eight pounds.”<sup>a</sup>

After some length of time this place became the property of the Barons Martin, descended from Martin de Tours, a Norman emigrant in the time of William the Conqueror. Of this family (notice whereof will be elsewhere taken) were five successive generations from the above-mentioned date to the time of Ric. II. when William Martin dying without issue, left this and the other estates to be divided betwixt Eleanor his sister, then married to William Columbers, and James the son of Nicholas de Audley, by Joane his other sister.<sup>d</sup>

This manor came in the partition to James Lord Audley, who being attainted for treason, it returned to the crown, and was granted to John Holland, Earl of Huntingdon. He being likewise attainted, it was again seized by the King, who bestowed it on the abbey of *St. Mary des Graces*, near the tower of London, founded by King Edward III.<sup>e</sup> The abbey however afterwards lost possession of it, and Henry VII. in the fourth year of his reign, granted it to Sir George Stanley, knt. Lord le Strange, in which family it continued for some time, and then passed to the family of Hungerford. In the time of Charles II. Sir Edward Hungerford sold it, with other manors, to Edward Colston, esq; of Bristol, who devised it to his niece, Mrs. Mary Edwards, from whom it descended to Sophia her daughter, who was married to Alexander Ready, esq. Which Alexander, by an act of parliament, assumed the name of Colston, and who is since dead, leaving his widow the present lady of the manor.

22 Edw. I. William Martin, lord of this manor, procured a charter of free warren in all his lands in this place. He died 18 Edw. II.<sup>f</sup>

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Cary, valued in 1292 at ten marks.<sup>g</sup> Mrs. Colston is the patron, and the Rev. Mr. Chaloner Bale the present incumbent.

The church is a large structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, and north aisle, with a small tower at the west end, containing five bells. The window over the north door has some remains of painted glass; the only whole figure is the Virgin Mary and Holy Infant, with the scroll *Scā Maria*.

In the middle passage is a vault belonging to the family of the Popes, who were formerly resident in this parish. On the stone which covers it there is a brass plate with the following inscription:—“ Here lyes the body of Thomas Pope, who died the 2d of September 1731, aged 30 years and 3 months.”

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domeſday.

<sup>d</sup> Eſc.

<sup>e</sup> Cart. Antiq.

<sup>f</sup> Cart. 22 Edw. I.

<sup>g</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.



This Thomas Pope left certain lands to the amount of about seven pounds a year for the educating six poor children; the surplus to be given to the second poor at Easter. The children to be schooled no longer than three years each.

Here are also the broken fragments of an old mural monument, containing the effigies of a man in armour kneeling, with a scull in his hand, and behind him two sons in a similar posture. Before him kneels his lady in a nun's habit with five daughters; and behind them lie six swathed infants. Beneath is this inscription:

"Here lieth the body of Oliver Lottisham, esquier, who married with Dorothy daughter of John Tilburie, by whom he had thirteen children, and died the 28th of March, 1616."

The christenings in this parish are ten, the burials nine on an average annually.

## M A P E R T O N

**I**S a parish of large extent, although it contains only about fifty houses. It is four miles south from Wincanton, delightfully situated in a winding combe between fine swelling hills, well cultivated and patched with coppice woods. The river Can, rising above Wincanton, runs through a part of it.

At the time of the Conquest it belonged to Turstin Fitz-Rolf, of whom mention has already been made, and was then called *Malpertone*:

"Goisfrid holds of Turstin MALPERTONE. Alwold held in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is six carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and ten servants, and three villanes, and nine cottagers, with three ploughs. There are two mills rendering five shillings and five pence, and five acres of meadow, and ten acres of pasture. Wood five furlongs long, and three furlongs broad. It was formerly worth eight pounds, now six pounds."

In the time of Richard the first, the manor of Maperton constituted part of the barony of the Lords Newmarch, and by the marriage of a coheirefs in the time of Henry III. became the property of the Barons Moels,<sup>b</sup> from whom also it descended in a similar way to the family of Courtney, and from them to the Earls of Huntingdon. The Hungerfords were its succeeding lords; and in the schedule of the great estates of Lady Mary Hungerford, this manor, with those of HATHERLEY and CLAPTON, now two small hamlets, both in this parish, was valued at 29l. 19s. 4d.<sup>c</sup> It was henceforth alienated, being possessed by different persons, and not long since was the property of Thomas Lockyer, esq; who devised it to his daughter Mary, the wife of Samuel Smith, esq; the present possessor.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domestday.

<sup>b</sup> See page 66, under North-Cadbury.

<sup>c</sup> Dugd. Bar. iii. 212.

The manor of *Clapton* above-mentioned, was at the Conquest a member of South-Cadbury,<sup>d</sup> but ever after passed with Maperton, as did also that of *Hatherley*.

CLAPTON is situated a mile westward from the church, and consists of two farms and one cottage, which are the property of Charles Penruddock, of Compton, near Salisbury, esq.

HATHERLEY lies a mile and a half southeast, and consists of two farms, the one belonging to Mr. Clare, the other to Mr. Longford of Milborne-Port.

There is also another hamlet in this parish, called SLATTERFORD, situated a mile and a quarter southeast, and containing six houses.

The church of Maperton, with the chapel of Blakeford, now Blackford, in the hundred of Whitney, was valued in 1292 at fifteen marks.<sup>e</sup> It is a rectory in the deanery of Cary, and is appendant to the manor. The Rev. Mr. Watfon is the present incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, stands on a considerable eminence, consisting of a single nave and chancel, with a tower containing three bells.

Against the south wall there is a black stone inscribed to the memory of the Rev. Charles Michel, late rector of this parish, who died Oct. 6, 1766; as also to several of his family.

In the floor of the chancel:—"Underneath lie Philip Bennet, esq; and Jane his wife. As he was universally esteemed for his friendship, good-nature, and honesty; she was no less remarkable for her beauty, virtue, good-sense, and piety. He died March 15, 1722, aged 44. She died May 2, 1722, aged 50."—There are some other memorials of the same family.

On another stone:—"Samuel Collins, once rector of this parish, was buried Jan. 21, 1714," with several children.

<sup>d</sup> See the Domesday account of South-Cadbury.

<sup>e</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

## S P A R K F O R D,

A Parish lying in the turnpike-road from Castle-Cary to Ivelchester, from which it is distant northeast six miles. The adjoining country to the east and south is very fine, being beautifully varied with hills and fruitful vallies, thickly interspersed with villages. To the west and north it is flat and woody for many miles, and admits of few agreeable prospects. The lands are principally pasture. The number of houses is forty-one, twenty-seven of which form a straggling street, near which stands the church; the rest are built along the turnpike-road half a mile to the north. The number of inhabitants is about two hundred and thirty.

It



It is called in Domeſday-Book *Spercheſorde*, and is thus ſurveyed under the title of *The land of Walter de Dowai*:

“ Fulcuin holds of Walter SPERCHEFORDE. Eluuacre held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides and one virgate of land. The arable is five carucates. In demefne are two carucates and a half, and ſix ſervants, and nine villanes, and ſeven cottagers, with four ploughs. There is a mill of ſeven ſhillings and ſix-pence rent, and forty acres of meadow, and one hundred acres of paſture, and one furlong of wood in length and breadth. It was worth four pounds, now one hundred ſhillings.”<sup>a</sup>

In very early times this compoſed part of the great barony of the Lovels, lords of Caſtle-Cary. 12 Hen. II. Ralph de Sparkeford, ſo denominated from the place, held one knight’s fee here of Henry Lovel,<sup>b</sup> and his descendants long continued tenants under the ſucceſſive poſſeſſors of this lordſhip. It was however ſometime held by the family of Burnell, of whom was Robert Burnell, Biſhop of Bath and Wells in the time of Edward I. After theſe came the Handlo’s and the Rogers’s, ſucceſſive meſne lords of this place; but the Lovels were lords paramount, and from them it deſcended in the ſame manner as Caſtle-Cary to the Seymours, the Lords Zouche of Harringworth, Willoughby Lord Broke, and was at length purchaſed by Richard Newman, eſq; whoſe deſcendant Francis Newman, of North-Cadbury, eſq; is the preſent poſſeſſor.

The living is rectorial, in the deanery of Cary, and in the patronage of Francis Newman, eſq; above-mentioned. The Rev. Mr. Newman is the preſent incumbent. In 1292 it was valued at 100s.<sup>c</sup>

The church is ſmall, having only one aile, with a ſtrong quadrangular embattled tower ſixty feet high, and containing three bells.

On a braſs plate in the chancel is the following inſcription:

“ Hic jacet Johes Chyke filius et heres Stephi Chyke de Wareham quondam Rector iſtius ecclie, qui obiit 26<sup>o</sup> die Martij A<sup>o</sup> Dñi M<sup>o</sup> v<sup>o</sup> xiiij, cuius aīe ppicietur Deus. Amen.”

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domeſday.

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Nig. Scac. i. 100.

<sup>c</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.



## S U T T O N - M O N T I S,

(Corruptly so called for MONTACUTE, an appellation formerly added to it by reason of its having been possessed by that family)

**I**S a small parish six miles east from Ivelcheſter, lying in a fruitful woody vale, under the ſouthweſt brow of Camalet or Cadbury-Caſtle, with other high hills towards the eaſt. This pariſh contains about thirty houſes, which compoſe a long ſtreet in the turnpike-road from Ivelcheſter to Caſtle-Cary.

It was one of the many manors which William the Conqueror gave to Robert Earl of Morton, and is thus noticed in the Survey:

“ Drogo holds of the Earl SUTONE. Bundi held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is five carucates. In demefne are two carucates, and two ſervants, and three villanes, and nine cottagers, with two ploughs. There is a mill untaxed, and ſixteen acres of meadow, and eight acres of wood. It was and is worth one hundred ſhillings.”<sup>a</sup>

This Drogo was that Drogo de Monteacuto or Montagu, who came over with the Conqueror’s army, and was rewarded for his ſervices with many conſiderable eſtates in this county. The original caſtle or ſeat of this family was at Montacute, a neighbouring eminence, either ſo denominated from its acute ſummit, or from Montagu the place in Normandy from which they emigrated; but the ſeat of their barony was Shepton-Montacute, a vill at no great diſtance from the place we are ſpeaking of. Drogo was anceſtor of a long train of progeny, which I ſhall trace hereafter, all of them poſſeſſors of this manor, till in the time of Henry VIII. Thomas Montague leaving no iſſue male, this eſtate was divided between three ſiſters, Emma the wife of Thomas Blundell, Eleanor the wife of John Bevyn, and Joan the wife of John Molyns.<sup>b</sup>

35 Eliz. the manor and advowſon of the church of Sutton-Montacute were in the poſſeſſion of Thomas Duport, eſq; but now the whole manor is diſmembered, the freehold of all the lands being in poſſeſſion of the occupiers.

The lower part of the village of Sutton is diſtinguiſhed from the other by the addition of *Crowthorne*, by reaſon that this diviſion or parcel was in former times held in the houſe of Montacute by the family of Crowthorne, who were people of eminence in their days, and lords of Crowthorne, an adjoining vill, from which they derived their name.

Great quantities of Roman coins have been dug up in the fields of this pariſh, it being ſituated near the Foſs, and the great ſtation of Ivelcheſter.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Cary, valued in 1292 at eight marks.<sup>c</sup> The patronage is in the family of Leach, and the Rev. Mr. Palmer the preſent incumbent.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domeſday.

<sup>b</sup> Inq. poſt Mort. capt. ap. Bridgwater, 25 Sept. 2 Hen. VIII.

<sup>c</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.



The church is dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and consists of one aisle, having a tower containing three bells.

In the chancel is an old brass plate to the memory of James Duport, lord of this manor, and Emma his wife, and Thomas their son, with a long train of funereal sentences in Latin verse, from Job xix. 1 Cor. xv. 20. Psal. xvi. 9. and Phil. iii. 20.

## WESTON - BAMPFYLDE

LIES northwest from Sutton-Montis, to which parish it is contiguous. It consists of only sixteen houses, twelve whereof stand near the church, and the rest compose the hamlet of LITTLE-WESTON, half a mile to the east. The lands are mostly pasture and meadow.

At the time that the Norman survey was composed, this place was a member of the great manor of North-Cadbury, as we learn from the following extract:

"To this manor [viz. CADEBERIE] is added WESTONE. Alwi held it in the time of King Edward for a manor, and might go where he would.<sup>a</sup> He gelded for two hides, and two virgates and a half of land. In demesne is one carucate and a half, and two servants, and six cottagers, with one plough. There is half a mill paying forty-five pence, and twenty-four acres of meadow; a wood two furlongs long, and one furlong broad. It was and is worth forty shillings. Richard holds it of Turstin [Fitz-Rolf]."<sup>b</sup>

This territory in succeeding times chiefly composed the demesnes of the manor of Weston; but there was a portion of land severed from the rest, which was held, both before and after the Conquest, by Alwine a Saxon.

"Alwine holds of Turstin WESTONE. The same held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for half a hide. The arable is half a carucate: but there is one carucate with one villane. It is worth ten shillings."<sup>c</sup>

This disjointed piece of land seems to have been what we now call *Little-Weston*.

At a very early period the manor of Weston began to be the property, and the place the residence of the ancient family of Baumfilde, now written Bampfylde, from whom it derived its additional name.

The first of this family that appears upon record is Richard Baumfilde, who married a daughter of John Hastings about the latter end of the reign of King John, or the beginning of that of Henry III. John the son of this Richard Baumfilde married Joan daughter of William Hoxham, of Hoxham near Poltimore in Devonshire,<sup>d</sup> and by her

<sup>a</sup> That is, he was a freeman, and could dispose of his land wherever he went.

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid.

<sup>d</sup> Sir William Pole's MS. Survey of Devon.

had issue John Baumfilde, lord of Poltimore in the time of Edward I. To whom lineally succeeded five other Johns, of whom the last dying without issue, his brother Thomas inherited the estates.

This Thomas Baumfilde married Agnes daughter of Adam Coplestone, and was father of two sons, and three daughters.

John the eldest son took to wife Agnes the daughter and heir of John de Pederton, of Hardington in this county, by whom he had issue two sons, Sir William Baumfilde, knt. and Peter, who was of Hardington; as also two daughters, Elizabeth married to Henry Fraunceis of Combe-Flory, and Thomafine.

Sir William Baumfilde, son and heir of John above-mentioned, married Margaret, daughter of Walter Paunceford, of Compton-Paunceford, and had issue

Walter Baumfilde his heir, who married, first, Grace<sup>d</sup> daughter of Sir Ralph Pudfey, knt. and secondly, Constance daughter of Edward Langford, esq; who died childless. This Walter died 19 Edw. IV. leaving by his first wife,

William Baumfilde, esq; who married, first, Margaret daughter of John St. Maur, and secondly, Margaret daughter of Nicholas Kirkham, and relict of John Cheyney of Pinhoe in the county of Devon. By his first wife he was father of one son, Edward, and two daughters Margaret and Elizabeth.

Edward Baumfilde, his only son and heir, married Elizabeth daughter of Sir Nicholas Wadham, of Merrifield, knt. by whom he had issue one son and five daughters.

Richard Baumfilde, his son and heir, married Elizabeth daughter of Sir John Sydenham, knt. of Brimpton in this county, and was father of three sons, Sir Amias, who succeeded him, Giles, and Richard, and nine daughters. It is commonly reported that this Richard Baumfilde was in his childhood kidnapped away by some great person or other, who, concealing from him his quality and estate, committed him to domestick drudgery, and, when he grew up, made him his huntsman. But it so happened that one of the gentleman's tenants (being the husband of the woman who had nursed Richard when an infant) found him out, and made him acquainted with the circumstances of his family and fortune, the truth of which he convinced him of by suggesting to his recollection a large mole which he had in his back; and brought him away privately to Sir John Sydenham's at Brimpton, who helped to restore him to the Poltimore estate, and gave him his daughter in marriage.<sup>f</sup> He died May 29, 1594, and was buried in the parish church of Poltimore.

Sir Amias Baumfilde, his eldest son and heir, married Elizabeth daughter of Sir John Clifton, of Barrington in this county, by whom he had issue six sons, and four daughters. Richard the eldest son died without issue, and John the second son succeeded to the estate.

<sup>e</sup> So the Baronetage; but Sir William Pole says Joan.

<sup>f</sup> See the English Baronetage by Wotton, who had his information from one of this family.



Which John was member of Parliament for Tiverton, 1 James I. and for the county of Devon, 3 Car. I. He married Elizabeth daughter of Thomas Drake, esq; and by her had issue eight sons and seven daughters. He was succeeded in the family estates by John the third son, who sat in Parliament as Member for Penryn in Cornwall, and 17 Car. I. was advanced to the dignity of a baronet. He married Gertrude daughter of Amias Coplestone, esq; and coheir to her brother John Coplestone, of Coplestone and Warleigh in the county of Devon, esq; by whom he was father of five sons and eight daughters.

Sir Coplestone Bampfylde, bart. the eldest son and successor of Sir John Bampfylde, received his education at Corpus Christi College in the university of Oxford. During the civil dissensions in the time of Charles I. he shewed himself a loyal subject to the King, by endeavouring to promote peace and unanimity among the disaffected, particularly those of Devonshire, of which county after the restoration of, Charles II. he was high-sheriff and knight for the shire. He died of the gout at Warleigh, A.D. 1691, and was buried at Poltimore, having been twice married, first to Margaret daughter of — Bulkeley, of Burgate in Hampshire, esq; by whom he had two sons, John Coplestone Bulkeley, who died without issue; and Hugh, who died by a fall from his horse in his father's life-time; and one daughter, Margaret, who died an infant. His second wife was Jane, daughter of Sir Courtenay Pole, of Shute in the county of Devon, bart. by whom he had no issue.

Hugh Bampfylde, esq; who (as we before observed) died in the life-time of his father, married Mary, daughter and heir of James Clifford, of Ware, esq; by whom he left two sons, Sir Coplestone Warwick, who succeeded to the title and estates; and John, who was Member of Parliament for the county of Devon, and afterwards for the city of Exeter, and married, first, Elizabeth the daughter of — Bassett, of Heanton-Court in the county of Devon, esq; and secondly, Margaret daughter and sole heir of Sir Francis Warre, of Hestercombe, by whom he was father of the present Coplestone Warre Bampfylde, of Hestercombe, esq. The name of Hugh Bampfylde's daughter was Margaret, who died in her infancy.

Sir Coplestone Warwick Bampfylde, eldest son of the said Hugh, succeeded his grandfather in his title and estate. He represented the city of Exeter in parliament 9 Anne, as he did also the county of Devon in the 12th year of the same reign, and in every succeeding parliament till his death, which was in 1727. By Gertrude his wife, daughter of Sir John Carew, of Anthony in the county of Cornwall, bart. he left issue Sir Richard Warwick, his successor, and one daughter, Mary, who married Sir Coventry Carew, bart.

Sir Richard Warwick Bampfylde was knight of the shire for the county of Devon. He married Jane, daughter and sole heir of Col. John Codrington, of Wraxhall in this county, by whom he had several sons and daughters; dying in 1776, he was succeeded in title and estate by

Sir Charles Warwick Bampfylde, the present baronet, member of parliament for Exeter, and possessor of the manor of Weston.

The church of Weston in 1292 was valued at one hundred shillings.<sup>s</sup> It is a rectory in the deanery of Cary. The Rev. Mr. Goldsborough is the present incumbent.

It is a plain single building, having only one aisle, with a tower containing three bells.

On the north side of the chancel there is an old mural monument of white marble, inscribed—"Grace, the daughter of Matthew and Ann Lydford of this parish, and wife of Nathaniel Mist of London, changed this life for a better, Sept. 17, 1726, in Carter-lane, London; and was there buried; aged 36 years."

On a flat stone:—"Here lies the body of Ann, daughter of Nathaniel Wilkinfon, sometime rector of this place, and wife of Thomas Combestocke, rector of the same, who died May 8, 1711.—Also the Rev. Mr. Thomas Combestocke aforelaid, who died July 1720."

<sup>s</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.





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THE HUNDRED OF

C            H            E            W.

**T**HIS hundred lies in the northeast part of the county, and takes its name from Chew, its chief town, as that also is denominated from the river Chew, whereon it stands. This river rises at Chewton under Mendip, and likewise communicates its name to that place, and to Chewton-Keynsham, near which it joins its waters with the Avon.

In the charter of King Edward the Confessor to Bishop Gyfo,<sup>a</sup> whereby several lands are confirmed to the church of Wells, the territory of Lipo [mistakenly transcribed for Lipo or Lipe] is said to contain fifty mansions: and these were the villages adjacent, Liteltune, Hærele,<sup>b</sup> Dundneez, and the three Subtuner: Littleton, Hasel, Dundry, and the three Suttens. At this day it is divided into the following tithings:

Timsbury	Bishop's-Sutton
Clutton	Knighton-Sutton
Stowey	Knoll
Chew-Stoke	Norton-Hautville
Dundry	North-Elm, and
Norton-Malreward	Stone.

<sup>a</sup> See Dugdale's *Monasticon Anglicanum*.

<sup>b</sup> This is now a manor and farm near Compton-Martin, but in the parish of Chewton-Mendip.



## C H E W - M A G N A.

THIS is a large and populous parish, very pleasantly situated at the distance of six miles south-west from Bristol, and twelve north-west from Wells; and extends four miles from north to south, and two miles from east to west, containing within its precincts one hundred and seventy houses, and eight hundred and thirty inhabitants.

The town of Chew stands on the north side of the river of that name, over which there is a stone bridge of two arches, called *Tun-Bridge*; and a little below the town this river receives a rivulet, which comes from Winford; and running under *Port-Bridge*, in the *Port-Way*<sup>a</sup> from Bristol to Wells, and *Sprat's-Bridge*, another county bridge of two arches, make the town a sort of peninsula.

In former days this was a borough, a market, and a large clothing town, neither of which characteristics belong to it now; as it retains no vestiges of privilege as a borough, nor any extent of commerce as a market, and its only manufacture are a few edge-tools and stockings.

It is distinguished by the name of *Chew-Magna*, on account of its being larger than other places of a similar name, and by that of *Bishop's-Chew*, as having in very ancient times belonged to the Bishops of Wells, of whose revenues in this place at the time of the Conquest we read the following detail in the great Norman Survey:

“The same Bishop [i. e. Gyso of Wells] holds CHWE. He held it in the time  
“of King Edward, and gelded for thirty hides. The arable is fifty carucates. Thereof  
“in demesne are four hides, and there are six carucates, and fourteen servants, and  
“thirty villanes, and nine cottagers, with twenty-four ploughs. There are three  
“mills of twenty shillings rent, and one hundred acres of meadow, and fifty acres of  
“pasture. A wood two miles long, and half a mile broad. It is worth to the Bishop  
“thirty pounds.

“Of the land of this manor Richard holds of the Bishop five hides. Rohard six  
“hides. Stefan five hides. Aluric seven virgates. Uluric two hides. In demesne  
“there are seven carucates, and eight servants, and eighteen villanes, and twenty-seven  
“cottagers, with ten ploughs. There are two mills of ten shillings rent. Among all  
“it is worth thirteen pounds.”<sup>b</sup>

This Bishop Gyso was a Frenchman, a native of a small village called Saint Trudo, in the territory of Haivan, and in the province of Lorraine. He was in great favour with Edward the Confessor, after whose death, fearing the consequences of Harold's usurpation, he fled into foreign parts, and there continued till he heard of the victo-

<sup>a</sup> That is, the City or Town-way. See a curious note on this subject in Mr. Warton's excellent History of Kiddington, p. 56.

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Domesday.



rious Norman being seated on the throne. He then returned, and the Conqueror not only restored him to the dignity he had abandoned, but reinstated his church of Wells in those lands of which it had been dispossessed, and of which the place in question was a part. Subsequent Monarchs enriched the burgh of Chew with many and great privileges; and these possessions continued in the fee of Bath and Wells till the second year of the reign of Edward the Sixth, when, in pursuance of a licence from the King, Bishop William Barlow alienated the manor, the borough and hundred, with all services appertaining thereto, as also the vills of Stone and Sutton, to Edward Duke of Somerset the protector. But upon his attainder it reverted to the Crown, and was granted to Lord Lumley, who 35 Eliz. sold the same partly to Sir Francis Popham, and partly to Edward Baber, esq; serjeant at law, viz. the royalty, leet, and the overland, or that little which paid tithe to the Bishop, to Popham; but the Bishop's house, demesnes, &c. to Baber. The manor itself continued in the family of Popham till, in the year 1766, Edward Popham, esq; knight of the shire for the county of Wilts, sold it with that of North-Elm to Richard Summers, esq; who is the present possessor.

The demesnes of this manor lay chiefly in the tithings of North-Elm and Knoll.

There are four tithings in this parish, viz.

1. NORTH-ELM, } above-mentioned.
2. KNOLL, }
3. STONE,
4. BISHOP'S-SUTTON, so called from its having formerly belonged to the Bishops of the diocese.

Besides which there are the following hamlets:

1. SUTTON-WICK,
2. NORTH-WICK,
3. SUTTON-NORTH, otherwise called *Knighton-Sutton* and *Sutton-Militis*, from its having been anciently possessed by the knightly family of the St. Loes. This place formerly gave name to a family. By an inquisition taken 20 Edw. III. William de Sutton is certified to hold half a knight's fee here, which Walter de Sutton formerly held of the Bishop of Bath.<sup>c</sup> Whether it came to the St. Loes by descent or purchase, is not certain; but 7 Hen. VI. John Saintelo is certified to hold this half fee.<sup>d</sup> This John Saintelo or St. Loe was a knight, and lord also of Walley, an adjoining manor. He married Eleanor the daughter of Sir Thomas Arundel, knt. by Catherine daughter and coheiress of Sir John Chydiock, knt. and dying 21st of Sept. 24 Hen. VII. left issue John St. Loe his son and heir aged sixteen years and a half.<sup>e</sup>

When Leland, our celebrated topographical antiquarian, made his itinerary, this seat of the St. Loes seems to have been one of his stations in surveying this county, as appears by several excursions he made from hence, when he tells us such places are so far distant from *Southtown*, "where (saith he) Syr John Saincte Lo hath an olde maner place."<sup>f</sup>

<sup>c</sup> Lib. Feod.

<sup>d</sup> Ibid.

<sup>e</sup> Coles's Etc. in the British Museum.

<sup>f</sup> Itin. vii. 104.

The family of St. Loe<sup>s</sup> were possessors of this manor, till Sir William St. Loe, captain of the guards to Queen Elizabeth, and stiled chief butler of England, settled it, with other possessions in this neighbourhood and in the county of Gloucester, on his lady, Elizabeth the daughter of — Hardwick, of Hardwick in Derbyshire. Which lady had four husbands, the first of whom was named Barloe, and died before they were bedded, being both very young. Her second husband was Sir William Cavendish, who had six children by her. On his death, she married this Sir William St. Loe, by whom she had no issue. Her fourth husband was George Earl of Shrewsbury. But Sir William St. Loe having settled all his great estate on her, she gave the greatest part of it to her second son Charles Cavendish, (brother to William the first Earl of Devonshire) whose son William was afterwards created Lord Ogle, and 18 James I. Viscount Mansfield; and 3 Car. I. Baron Bolsover and Earl of Newcastle; and having fortified that town for Charles the First, in the 19th year of his reign he was created Duke of Newcastle. Flying beyond sea, his estate was confiscated, and this manor, with Stoke and some other lands hereabout, was sold away. The manor-house, called Sutton-Court, was purchased in trust by Elizabeth the wife of Edward Baber (which Edward had a lease on it for lives before) for the use of her son by Samuel Jep, on whom she settled it in marriage. But the said Samuel Jep dying without issue male, and the remainder being vested in her, she settled it on John, the son of her second husband William Strachey, in marriage with Jane, daughter and coheir of George Hodges, of Wedmore, esq; and their heirs; in which family it still continues, being now the estate of Henry Strachey, esq; member of parliament for Bishop's-Castle in Shropshire.

The arms of St. Loe remain in the house, and were, in a large parlour built A. D. 1558 by the lady above-mentioned, quartered with Ragland, Irwood, Pointz, Acton, Fitz-Payne, Ancel, Rivers, Malet, and Fitz-Nichols.

The parish of Chew produces a red bolus, called by the inhabitants *ruddle*, which is much used for marking sheep, and frequently used by the apothecaries as a substitute for the Armenian bole.

Not far from the town are the vestiges of an ancient Roman encampment, called from its shape *Bow-ditch*, being of a circular form with triple ramparts, and commanding a fine prospect of the Bristol Channel.

Chew gave birth to Sir John Champneys, a merchant of London, and lord-mayor of that city, A. D. 1535. He stands recorded for being the first person who ever built a turret to a private house in London.<sup>a</sup>

The living of Chew is a peculiar, and one presentation with Dundry. The Rev. Mr. Lindsey is patron, and the Rev. Mr. Hall the present incumbent. It is mother church to Stoke, Stowey, and Norton. In 1292 it was valued at fifty marks.<sup>1</sup>

Bishop Ralph de Salopia appropriated this church *mensæ episcopali*, and reserving the tithes of the demesne lands, endowed the vicar with the residue.

<sup>a</sup> Of this family see more under the article of Newton-St. Loe.

<sup>1</sup> Fuller's Worthies, Stow's Survey, &c.

<sup>1</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.



The church is a large pile, consisting of a nave and side ailes, one hundred and six feet in length, and sixty in breadth. At the west end is a well-built tower, one hundred and three feet high, with an open ballustrade and turret at one corner, a clock and six bells.

At the east end of the north aile is a large old tomb of Sir John St. Loe and his lady, who, Leland says, was grandfather to that Sir John St. Loe in his time living at this place. On this tomb lies the effigies of Sir John in armour, of a gigantick size, being seven feet four inches long, and two feet four inches across the shoulders. His head-piece is under his head, and he lies cross-legged, to denote his having been at Jerusalem, with a lion at his feet, and a collar of SS about his neck. The female figure is much defaced; her head-dress like that worn by Mary Queen of Scots, her robe gathered round her neck, whereon is a gold chain reaching to the top of her stays.

On a grave-stone hard by is the following sentence:—"Hic jacet Alicia uxor Joannis Saintelo, arm. que ob. 1443."

On the sides of Sir John St. Loe's monument the family arms are cut in stone, viz. On a bend three annulets, over all a label of three points. The same arms are also in the roof of the aile (which is thought to have been built by Sir John) impaled with a pair of wings conjoined, the arms of Fitz-Payne. In the same roof are also the arms of Bishop Beckington; and in another escutcheon the five wounds of our Saviour. There was formerly an inscription round the roof in wood, but now effaced.

At the east end of the south aile, which belonged to the manor-house, is a large freestone monument, containing the effigies of Edward Baber, esq; and Catherine his wife; and on several tablets the following memorials to that family:

"Memoriæ et honori sacrum V. Cl. Edwardi Baber, fervientis ad legem; qui pietate morum, gravitate, scientiaque juris municipal. conspicuus, et inter ornamenta sui seculi communi bonorum hominum suffragio numeratus, obitu præveloci suam mortalitatem finivit 23<sup>o</sup> Septembris, A. D. MDLXXVIII. Vixit annos XLVII."

"Memoriæ S. Francisci Baber, de Chew-Magna, armigeri, qui officio Irenarchæ com. Somersfet. sub Elizabetha Regina, Jacobo et Carolo Regibus, cum laude functus, obiit 9<sup>o</sup> die Septembris, A. D. MDCXLIII. Vixit annos LXXVIII, dies XV."

"M. S. Annæ filiæ Willielmi Whitmore, de Appleby in com. Salop. arm. nuper uxoris prædicti Francisci Baber, a quo susceptos Franciscum et Jacobum filios, Annam, Mariam et Janam filias, superstites reliquit. Vixit annos LXXX. men. vii. obiit die xxx Decem. A. D. MDCL. Cujus corpus in Ecclesia S. Petri Bathon. sepultum jacet. Fran. Baber, arm. LL.D. matri suæ B. M. hoc cenotaphium P. C."

"In memoriam Catharinæ Baber, uxoris Edw. Baber, ser. ad leg. filiæ Thomæ Leygh, de Stone-Leygh in comit<sup>u</sup> Warwic<sup>i</sup> Equitis aurati. obiit x<sup>o</sup> Martij, A. D. MDCI."

"Eiusdem Francisci Baber corpus in infra posito conditorio (quod ipse extruxit) in spe beatæ resurrectionis sepultum requiescit." The arms of Baber, viz. *Argent*, on a fess *gules*, three hawks' heads erased, of the first, are impaled with *Whitmore*, *vert*, fretty *or*, and with *Leigh* of Stonely, *gules*, a cross engrailed *argent*.

At the foot of this tomb there is an old stone in the floor, with the following broken inscription: *Die Mensis Maii Anno Domini Mccccxlii.*

To the right of the communion-table is an ancient mural monument of stone, with a brass tablet bearing an inscription in Latin to Gabriel Goodman, esq; of the family of Goodman in Northamptonshire, and two of his sons.—Arms: *Per pale sable and ermine, an eagle displayed or; impaling two chevronels sable, between three roses gules.*

To the left of the communion-table is an elegant mural monument of white and Sienna marble, inscribed to the memory of

“ Elizabeth Smith, who died the 8th of May, 1745,

“ Robert ——— the 13th of October, 1745,

“ John ——— the 29th of October 1745,

“ The children of the Rev. William Smith, vicar of this parish thirty years;” who died the 16th of March 1764, aged 62. Ann his wife died Feb. 4, 1764.

Arms: Parted per chevron embattled *azure* and *argent*, in chief three crosses fitchés *or*, in base a lion courant *sable*, crowned *or*.

On the north wall of the chancel is a handsome mural monument of white marble, inscribed:—“ Near this place lyes the body of Richard Jones, late of Stowey in this parish and county, esq. He was born May the 1st, 1605, and dyed May 15, 1692. He was a man of universal knowledge and good sense, every way useful in his station whilst living, and dying gave a noble instance of his good-will to his country and mankind: leaving three thousand pounds to be employed in public charities, at the discretion of his exêcutors; one thousand pounds of which were given to the Merchants-hall at Bristol, for maintenance of seamen’s widows; the rest was employed in erecting and endowing free-schools at Newton St. Loe, and Stanton-Wick in this county, and at Wotton-Basset in the county of Wilts. He married Mrs. Joyce Woodward, by whom he had six sons, Thomas, William, Samuel, two Richards, and John; and five daughters, Sarah, Elizabeth, two Joyces, and Susan. As his children were blest in a careful father, so was he likewise happy in them, particularly in his son William, who had the honour of knighthood, and office of attorney-general, conferred on him by King Charles the Second, his signal eminence in his profession justly claiming his prince’s favour.

“ Near this place also lye buried Joyce his wife; three of their sons, Thomas, Richard, and John; and four of their daughters, Sarah, two Joyces, and Susan.”—Arms: *Party per pale, gules and azure, three lions rampant argent.*

On the south wall of the chancel is a handsome mural monument of white marble, on the tablet of which is this inscription:—“ Near this place lies one of the best of christians, of mothers; and of women, Elizabeth the daughter of Richard Jones, of Stowey in this parish, esq; who was first married to Henry Pinnel, esq; of Naish-House in the county of Wilts, by whom she had one son named Henry. And afterwards to Sir Richard Hart, knt. of Hanham in the county of Gloucester, by whom she had also one son named William. She was born the 17th of September 1636, and died the 11th of November 1714. To whose memory this small monument of filial piety and gratitude



gratitude is erected by her two sons Henry Pinnel and William Hart."—Arms: *Sable*, a hart passant *argent*, impaling Jones.

On the north wall of the north aisle is a superb mural monument with the following inscription:—"Hodges Strachey, esq; eldest son of John Strachey, esq; late of Sutton-Court in this parish, died 2 Dec. 1746. His first wife was Margaret daughter of Henry Henley, of Lee in the county of Somerset, esq. His second wife, Ann daughter of William Parkin, of Bristol, merchant. His third wife Mary, (one of the daughters and coheiresses of Robert Smith, of Nailsworth in Gloucestershire) died 19th Dec. 1764. Whose nephew and executor Robert Hale (in pursuance of her will) caused this monument to be erected to their memories."—Arms: *Argent*, a cross between four eagles displayed *gules*. Crest, an eagle displayed of the second.

On the floor:—"Here lyeth the body of Mary the wife of Edward Clarke, of Chipley in the county of Somerset, esq; by whom she had a numerous issue. She was the sole daughter and heiress of Samuall Jepp, esq; late of Sutton-Court in this parish of Chew-Magna, deceased. She died at Chipley upon the tenth day of January 1705, and was here interred upon the eighth day of February following, and at her own request buried in a lead coffin, to the end her bones might not be disturbed.

"Conditur hoc tumulo—sua molliter ossa quiescant,

"Semper et in summo mens aurea vivat Olympo."

Arms: Barry of four, in the dexter point in chief an escallop shell: over all an escutcheon of pretence quarterly, First and fourth, a chevron between three falcons close; second and third, three arrows, points downward, on a chief three moor's heads erased.

On the north side of the nave is an old oval mural monument of stone surrounded with very antique ornaments, which once were painted red. On a black tablet is the following inscription, much injured by time:—"Sarah the wife of William Lyde, of this parish, gent. and daughter of Richard Jones, of Stowey, esq; having had Christ her life, found death her gaine, the 17th of September, in the year of our Lord 1662, and of her age the 31st."

"M. S. Elizabeth the wife of Benjamin Harington, of Corston, esq; and daughter of William Lyde, of this parish, gent. Died 12th of December, anno Dom. 1693."

On the south side of the nave is a mural monument of white marble—"To the memory of Major Samuel Collins, whose merit gradually recommended him to seven successive commissions in one regiment of horse; wherein he acquitted himself with honour and courage, in Scotland, Ireland, the Low Countries, Portugal, and Spain. To omit lesser actions, he had his share in the battles of Gillicranky, the Boyne, and Agrim; in the sieges of Athlone, Galway, Limerick, Namur, Badajox; and at Barcarotta first proclaimed Charles the Third in Spain. By his first wife Elizabeth, he left issue Samuel, Eliza, and Mary; and after twenty-four years fatigue in war, died here in the year of peace, March 20th, 1743, aged 65. Quis generosa putet nisi fortia? This monument was erected by his two sons Samuel and Emanuel."—Arms: *Gules*, on a bend *or*, three martlets *azure*. Motto; *Colens Deum et Regem*.

On the east window in the south aisle lies the effigies of Sir John Hautvil, a warrior, (of whom hereafter) cut in one solid piece of Irish oak. He lies reclining on his left side, resting on his hip and left elbow, the left hand supporting his head. Between the left elbow and hip lies his shield, which is two feet three inches long, and fourteen inches broad in the widest part, being of an oblong shape. His right arm being brought forward over his breast, the hand rests on the edge of the shield. The under or left leg is raised from the hip, and the foot placed against the side of a lion, whose open mouth is turned towards him, as it were biting his spur. The right leg is so drawn up as for the knee joint to bend in a right angle, the toes resting on a little piece of wood. The whole figure is in armour, with a red loose coat without sleeves over it, and bound round the waist with a leather girdle, fastened by a gilt buckle; just below the breast it is fastened with a smaller belt. He has a helmet on, and spurs gilt.

"Benefactions to the parish of Chew-Magna.

"Mr. John Curtis and Agnes his wife, of Chew, gave 40s. for three sermons on Midlent Sunday, Sunday after Ascension-Day, and Sunday before St. James's, yearly for ever. Also 20s. for schooling one poor boy of this parish for ever. A. D. 1607.

"Mr. John Webb, of Chew, gave 10l. the use thereof to the poor of this parish for ever. 1621.

"Mr. John Heale, *senr.* of Sutton-Wick, gave two parcels of ground in that tithing; and 20s. per annum to the poor of this parish for sixty years. He also gave 10l. the profit thereof to the poor of this parish for ever. 1657.

"Mr. John Tegg, of Stowey, gave all his lands in Morton, after two lives, for the education of poor children of this parish; to be disposed of by Mr. John Heale and Mr. Thomas Sherborn, and their heirs for ever. 1684.

"Richard Jones, of Stowey, *esq.* gave 3000l. to charitable uses, whereof 5l. per annum for ever is allotted for such poor of this parish who do not receive alms. 1692.

"Madam Baber, widow, by will gave to the churchwardens of the parish of Chew-Magna the sum of 100l. the interest thereof to be employed in binding out poor children apprentices. The estate purchased is situate in the parish of Compton-Martin.

"James Selby, gent. of Bristol, by will gave 100l. to the vicar and churchwardens of this parish, the interest to be distributed yearly among the poor of Bishop's-Sutton tithing. 1772."

In the church-yard are the remains of a very old cross.

The church-house seems to have been erected by the St. Loe's, whose arms, impaling Fitzpaine two wings conjoined, are cut in stone over the door, and the date 1510.

Here is a charity-school, founded by Mr. John Tegg of Stowey, in the year 1684, who gave an estate at Morton for the purpose, amounting to 5l. 10s. per annum. The number of boys is eight.



## C H E W - S T O K E.

**C**ONTIGUOUS to Chew-Magna is Chew-Stoke, which in the Conqueror's time belonged to Gilbert Fitz-Turolde, or Thorold, and is thus surveyed in the old record:

"Gilbert Fitz-Turolde holds of the King Cuiwestoch, and Osbern of him. Edric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for a hide and a half. The arable is two carucates, which are held in demesne, and two servants, and two cottagers, and twenty acres of meadow, and ten acres of coppice-wood. It was formerly worth twenty shillings, now thirty shillings."

This Gilbert Fitz-Turolde was one of those nobles who conspired, with Robert Duke of Normandy, against King William Rufus, in which adventure he bore so great a share, that all his lands in England were seized, and disposed of to different persons. To whom this manor was given is not evident, but the most ancient possessors of it of any account after the Conquest, were the Lords Beauchamp of Hatch, by whom it was held under the Honour of Gloucester. It came in process of time to the St. Loe's, who sold it, and it is now the property (by a late purchase) of John Savery, esq.

WALLEY in this parish was also a manor of the St. Loe's, as was

ST. CROSS, where was anciently a cell for four nuns, the foundations whereof still remain, and near it is a well called *St. Mary's Well*, to whom probably the house was dedicated. This cell was founded by Elizabeth *de Sancta Cruce*, a family who resided in and took their names from the place. They had likewise the adjoining manor of Moreton, and lands in Nemnet and Compton-Martin.<sup>b</sup> Most of these lands came to the family of St. Loe; and by an inquisition taken at Brewton 26th June, 26 Hen. VI. it was found that Sir John St. Loe died seized in fee of Walley manor, and of two messuages, two hundred acres of arable, forty acres of meadow, and thirty shillings rent in the hamlet of St. Cross.<sup>c</sup>

This parish is situated in a very pleasant woody vale, on the turnpike-road from Bristol to Wells, and contains about eighty houses, and four hundred and forty inhabitants. Here are several quarries of lime-stone, and of another kind of granulated stone, which works easily for building; but is of a reddish yellow colour. In these quarries are some few fossils and cornua ammonis.

The benefice is a rectory in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster; the Rev. Mr. Butler is the present patron and incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Andrew, and was built by one of the St. Loe's, whose arms, impaling those of Fitzjames, were formerly in the windows; and there still remain two coats of each family cut in stone on the outward south wall of the church.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> Inq. post Mort.

<sup>c</sup> Inq. post Mort. Joh<sup>is</sup> St. Loe.

There are inscriptions on the floor to the memory of the families of Woodward, Lukens, Pickering, Perry, and Webb; and the following list of benefactions:

"Mr. John Lush by will bequeathed, Anno Dom. 1567, to charitable uses the sum of forty pounds.

"Mr. Edmund Laggatt by will, Anno Dom. 1693, bequeathed to the poor the sum of twenty pounds.

"Mr. John Brean by will bequeathed, 1723, to the poor the sum of sixteen pounds.

"John Perry, gent. by will bequeathed, Anno Dom. 1727, to the poor 100l.

"John Webb, gent. (son of Mrs. Mary Budge) bequeathed by will, Anno Dom. 1765, to the poor the sum of fifty pounds.

"To the charity school in this parish 1718, Edward Colston, esq; gave 5l. a year during his life, and continued that annuity by will twelve years after his decease.

"1732. Thomas Bilbie gave a bell 47lb. weight, value 2l. 7s.

"1743. John Norcot, gent. deceased, by will gave 20l. for ever.

"April 10, 1718. Then began to be erected by subscription a charity-school within the said parish, for the maintenance of twenty free boys to read and write, by the following Gentlemen subscribers:

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Robert Paine, rector	150	0	0	W. Webb, junr.	2	0	0
Edward Colston, esq;	5	0	0	John Webb	2	0	0
Wm. Webb, senr.	62	0	0	Samuel Fisher	1	10	0
John Perry	30	0	0	William Kirton	1	10	0
Walter Webb	16	0	0	James Stallard	1	1	6
Thomas Dandoe	5	0	0	Edward Bilbie	1	0	0
George Perrot	10	0	0	John Griffin	1	0	0
Thomas Cox	11	0	0	Thomas Webb	1	0	0
John Brean	4	0	0	Richard Heale	1	0	0
Thomas Walker	2	0	0	Hester Webb	1	0	0
Jos. Lane	2	0	0	Rev. Wm. Symes	3	3	0
Richard Leverfuch	1	0	0	William Coomb	1	0	0
George Sheppard	1	1	0	Michael Webb	13	0	0
Thomas Hill	1	0	0	William King	5	0	0
Thomas Goodson	0	10	0	Susan. Woodward	10	0	0
Samuel Bishop	0	10	0	James Fear	5	0	0
Robert Paine, rector	5	0	0				

"William Webb, gent. of this parish deceased, and chief promoter of the charity-school here erected, besides his subscription to the said charity-school, mentioned in the table, and divers other charities to the poor, did, by his deed of uses bearing date the 11th day of December 1731, settle the sum of 5l. per annum for ever, payable out of his estate called Summers's, for cloathing five poor boys, natives of the said parish, who shall constantly attend the said school."



The parsonage-house is a very old building, now converted into a parish workhouse. On the front over the west window these arms are cut in stone:—On a bend three annulets, over all a label of three points, *St. Loe*, impaling a cross wavy. *St. Loe*, impaling *Fitzpaine*. *St. Loe*, impaling a saltire engrailed between four leopards' heads; *Ansell*. *St. Loe*, impaling two bars dauncetteé, *Rivers*.

Over the next window:—Three unicorns passant, *Ragland*. *St. Loe*, impaling three escallop shells, *Malet*. Three moor's heads wreathed.

Over the door:—*St. Loe*. A moor's head in a chaplet wreathed. The rose and crown. Dexter hand in a chaplet. A fesse between six billets. On each side *Laus Deo*; and on a scroll, *A Dño factū est istud quod barry in anno Dñi MDCXIX*. The *St. Loe's* arms are also in other parts of the house.

## C L U T T O N

**I**S a parish situated on very high ground, ten miles south from Bristol, ten north from Wells, and twelve west from Bath, to each of which cities there is a turnpike-road from hence. This parish is one tithing, and contains one hundred and seventy-five houses, and nine hundred inhabitants. The country abounds with excellent coals, the veins of which are generally covered with a stony stratum, which the miners call *Wark*. It splits like slate, and abounds with impressions of fern and other plants. Over this is another stratum called *the Thorny Cliff*, which is intermixed with arboresecent marcasites. The coal is often tinged with sulphur: some years since one stratum wrought here was so strongly impregnated with it, that in all its joints it seemed to be covered with leaf-gold. In another work near three hundred weight of good lead ore was found growing to a vein of coal.

This place is noticed in the general survey of this kingdom by the name of *Clutone*, the derivation of which is uncertain. The Conqueror gave it to the Bishop of Coutance:

“ William holds of the Bishop, CLUTONE. Turchel held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for ten hides. The arable is eight carucates. In demesne are three carucates, with one servant, and ten villanes, and twelve cottagers, with six ploughs. There is a mill of thirty pence rent, and one hundred and seven acres of meadow. Pasture ten furlongs long, and four furlongs broad. A wood half a mile long, and as much broad. It was worth three pounds, now six pounds.”

The first notice that occurs concerning this manor in times subsequent to the Conquest, is in an inquisition taken after the decease of Robert Gyene, wherein the said Robert is certified to have held this manor with the advowson of the church for the term of his life of John de Greyville, by the service of paying to the said John and

his heirs a rose yearly for all services; reverfionary to the faid John de Greyville, then a minor and in ward to the Earl of Hertford, of whom the manor and advowfon are certified to be held by the fervice of one knight's fee and a half, and doing fuit to his court at Monkton-Farley.<sup>b</sup> This Greyville or Grevile was progenitor of the Earls of Warwick, and in this family (having paffed through the names of Stafford, Willoughby, Broke, &c.) the manor is vefted at the prefent day, being the property of George Grevile, Earl Broke, and Earl of Warwick. His Lordfhip's arms are, *Sable*, on a crofs within a bordure engrailed *or*, five pellets.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminfter. The Earl of Warwick is patron, and the Rev. Dr. Morgan the prefent incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Auguftine, is a handsome edifice, confifting of a nave, chancel, and porch, all covered with lead. The tower at the weft end was rebuilt in the year 1728, and contains a clock and five bells.

Againft the north wall of the chancel there is a plain neat monument of white marble, infcribed to the memory of John Newel, gent. who died Aug. 6, 1771, aged 41 years; with divers other infcriptions to the families of Burton; Rev. Mr. Thomas Kent, rector of Clutton, who died May 6, 1715; Moore; and Poole.

The chriftenings are twenty-fix, the burials eighteen, on an annual average.

<sup>b</sup> Efc. 26 Edw. III.

## D U N D R Y.

**T**HE name of this village was derived from two Erfe words, *Dun* and *Draegb*, fignifying a hill of oaks, of which wood without doubt there was plenty in ancient times in this neighbourhood; and indeed at prefent there are remains of fome oak groves in the common northward of the village, though they bear on their flinted trunks the marks of that cold northern blaft which impedes the progrefs of vegetation.

It is fituated on a very lofty and bleak fpot, fourteen miles weft from Bath, and five fouth from Brijtol, and commands one of the moft extenfive and beautiful profpects in the weft of England.

To the north and eaft the cities of Bath and Brijtol are both in view; the hills about Calne and Devizes, feen above the former, bound the profpect. To the right of Brijtol are feen the hills near Berkeley and Stroud in Gloucefterfhire, and the view extends to the Malvern fummits. From north to weft the Severn, with the Welch coaft and mountains for nearly forty miles in length, and the Quantock hills near Bridgwater, appear to view. To the fouth the eye ranges over a rich and beautifully varied country, and fees Stourhead, Knoll-Hill, and Clay-Hill near Warminfter, with the noble plantations of Lord Weymouth and the Duke of Somerfet, bounded by the high lands in the vicinity of Shaftfbury.

The



The parish is composed of forty-two houses, and about two hundred inhabitants; and is divided into the tithings of *East-Dundry*, *West-Dundry*, and *Littleton*; besides which there are two hamlets, called *HIGH-RIDGE* and *COLD-HARBOUR*; the former taining fourteen houses, the latter five.

The lands are about an equal mixture of pasture and arable, and tolerably good, but from their cold exposure to the winds blowing from the Channel, the crops are more backward than in most other parts of the county. The western summit of the hill is a most bleak, dreary, and solitary situation, whereon nature has been very sparing with her gifts, and the hand of art never exerted itself but in hewing out immense quarries in days of yore, and erecting one poor forsaken building for the purpose of a beacon-house. This building is composed of two stones put slantwise for a covering, with an arched door-way three feet high, and two and a half wide. The room within is five feet and a half long, and five feet wide. The whole seems rather to have been a kind of watch-house to a bergier, or perhaps the keeper of a beacon, than a beacon itself, as no marks of fire are distinguishable in any part of its composition.

The manor of Dundry is not mentioned in the Norman Survey, having anciently been a member of the manor of Chew-Magna, and held by the Bishops of Bath and Wells till the time of Edw. VI. when it was alienated from the church, and given to the Duke of Somerset; upon whose attainder it reverted to the crown, and passed through several hands, till by purchase it came to the possession of the family of Popham, who enjoyed it for a considerable time; but in the year 1766 it was conveyed by Edward Popham, esq; to Richard Summers, esq; the present proprietor.

The hospital of St. John the Baptist in the city of Bristol had divers lands and tenements in Dundry,<sup>a</sup> which 36 Hen. VIII. were granted to George Owen, esq.

15 Ric. II. Edmund Bassett possessed lands in this place.<sup>b</sup> There were also five pieces of land in Dundry, given for the support of a lamp in the church, which lands, after the dissolution of chantries, 7 Edward VI. were granted to Thomas Reeve and George Cotton, and by them sold to Hugh Tynte, clerk, and — Cocks of Wraxall. 1 Mary, Tynte and Cocks sold the same to Peyton and others, as feoffees for the parish.<sup>c</sup>

The living is annexed to Chew-Magna, and is in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster. It was always heretofore considered as a chapel to the above-named church.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel,<sup>d</sup> stands on the top of a very high hill, and is seen at an immense distance both by sea and land. It consists of a nave, north aisle, and chancel. At the west end is a beautiful tower with clustered open turreted pinnacles, fifteen feet high above the battlements, and containing a clock and six bells. Notwithstanding the elevated situation of this church, it is very damp.

Against the north wall of the chancel is a neat monument of white and mottled marble, erected "In memory of William Symes, gent. of this parish, who died

<sup>a</sup> Pat. 16 Ed. II.

<sup>b</sup> Rot. Parl.

<sup>c</sup> Taken from a Deed in the church chest of Dundry, 23 Nov. 1786.

<sup>d</sup> See vol. i. p. 76, note l.

Nov. 6, 1760, aged 77. Also of Benjamin Symes, gent. son of the above William and Letitia Symes, who departed this life July 3, 1779, aged 49. Also of William Symes, gent. son of William Symes and Letitia his wife of this parish, gent. who departed this life Sept. 10, 1741, in the 15th year of his age."—Arms: *Or*, two lions passant, langued, *sable*. On a quarter of the last three bezants: impaling, on a chevron *gules*, between three crescents *or*, as many stags' heads of the same, cabossed.

There is also a small mural monument to Benjamin Godwin, gent. who died April 22, 1743, aged 68. Also to Anne his wife, who died June 10, 1740, aged 70.

There are likewise memorials for the families of Tibbot, (arms: barry, *gules* and *argent*, a fess embattled *sable*.) Haythorne, Hellier, Webb, Branch, and others; and on a brass plate the following inscription:—"In memory of William and Martha Jones, of Bishport. She died March 3, 1749, aged 67. He died May 16, 1753, aged 81. He was a man of well-known integrity, and whose natural abilities were so great, that by them only he clearly comprehended the powers of the human mind; and unaided by academical education, was able to refute with uncommon sagacity the slavish systems of usurped authority over the rights, the consciences, or the reason of mankind!!!!"

Near the church there stands an ancient house, built by the Bishops of Bath and Wells for the residence of an officiating minister, but which is now converted into a poor-house. And in the church-yard is a handsome cross.

Dundry gave birth to Henry Hellier, a learned divine, and fellow of Corpus-Christi College in Oxford, A. D. 1687. Among other things he published a sermon preached before the University of Oxford, Dec. 4, 1687, concerning the obligation of oaths, (Psalm xv. 4.) which was thought to reflect on King James II. for breaking his oath at his coronation.

The christenings in this parish are on an average twelve, the burials eight.

• The lands of Tibbot in Dundry do now belong to John Blgrave, esq.

## NORTON-HAUTVILLE, or HAWKFIELD.

**T**HIS vill, lying north from Chew, the hundred town, to which parish it is a tithing, obtained from that circumstance the original appellation of *Norton* or *North-Town*. The other was added in consequence of its having been possessed by the family of *Hautville* or *de Alta Villa*, who were descended from the ancient house of that name in the diocese of Seiz in Normandy.

Of this name of Hautville lived many in the reigns of John, Henry the Third, and Edward the First and Second, in all whose wars they were engaged, and esteemed mighty warriors.

Sir



Sir John Hautville lived in the time of Henry the Third, and was engaged in all the wars of that Prince, and 54th of that reign was signed with the cross in order to his going to the Holy Land with Prince Edward. In his old age he is said to have resided at Norton, where he seems to have been somewhat of a terror to the inhabitants, inasmuch as they termed him a *giant*, and there still remain in this neighbourhood, between Chew and Pensford, two huge stones, called by the common people *Hautville's Coits*, and vulgarly supposed to have been thrown there by this champion.

Sir Gefferey de Hautville was his successor, and 25 Edw. I. was one of those gentry of this county who were summoned to be in London with horse and arms, the Sunday after the octave of the feast of St. John the Baptist, in order to attend the king into foreign parts.<sup>a</sup>

To him succeeded William, and to him Sir Gefferey de Hautville; but the name seems to have ended about the commencement of the reign of Ed. II. or the beginning of that of Edw. III. at least we find no more of them in these parts. For in the last-mentioned reign we learn, from indubitable records, that the manor of Norton, then called Norton-Hautville, belonged to a family who assumed their name from *Wick* in the parish of Yatton, where there still remains an ancient manor-place known by the name of Court de Wick.<sup>b</sup>

John De Wick is the first that I find possessed of Norton. He was a person eminent in his days, and died 20 Edw. III. The inquisition after his decease says that he held half a knight's fee here, which Gefferey de Hautville formerly held of the Bishop of Bath. His wife's name was Egelina, who after his death married to her second husband Robert Cheyne, esq; of the family of Cheyne in Lancashire, who in her right became possessed of the manor and advowson of the church of Norton, and left them to a cousin of his own name.<sup>c</sup>

It does not appear when Robert Cheyne the second died, but his heir and successor was Sir William Cheyne, knight, who lived in the time of Henry V. and seems to have been a person of considerable account and property in this county and Dorsetshire. At his death, 8 Hen. V. he is certified to have held this manor, with the advowson of the free chapel here appertaining to the manor, of the Bishop of Bath and Wells.<sup>d</sup>

Edmund Cheyne, his son and heir, succeeded to the manor.

After him came Edward Cheyne, whose name is mentioned 7 Hen. VI. as possessing half a knight's fee here. But he seems to have alienated it, for in the very same reign Walter de Sutton is certified in the Book of Fees to hold that half knight's fee in Norton-Hautville which the Wykes and Cheyneys formerly held of the Bishops of Bath and Wells.<sup>e</sup>

To him succeeded William de Sutton, probably his son and heir. But I find no more of the manor for several reigns, till in that of Edw. VI. both the manor and the advowson and right of patronage of the church were found to be in the possession of Thomas Hussey, esq; of Calthorp in Lincolnshire. Which Thomas Hussey 5 Ed. VI.

<sup>a</sup> Claus. 25 Edw. I.

<sup>b</sup> Inq. post Mort.

<sup>c</sup> Esc.

<sup>d</sup> Ibid.

<sup>e</sup> Lib. Feod.

fold these possessions to John Cutler, of Stansted in Suffex, esq; and he the year following disposed of the same to James and John Biss, of Stoke St. Michael in this county. 14 Jac. I. James Biss and James his son fold the same to James Ford, of Norton-Hawkfield, gent. William Ford, A. D. 1666, fold the manor to the Rev. Nathaniel Ingelo, D. D. fellow of Eton College in the county of Bucks.<sup>f</sup>

In this tithing of Norton-Hautville there is an old camp or fortification, called *May's-Knoll*, supposed to be Roman. It is encompassed with a single ditch, the graff whereof is highest on the west side, and includes upwards of twenty acres. The entrance being narrow, is barred with a high rampart. The common people tell us that this knoll was the residence of *Hautville*, (or *Hakill*, as they call him) the supposed giant, whom we have before mentioned, and that it was from this place that he flung his coit.

The church of Norton-Hautville has long since been destroyed, but the foundations shew where it once stood. The advowson was generally annexed to the manor, and was some time held by the Babers of Regilbury, and lately by Sir Charles Kemeys Tynte, bart.

In this church were interred the remains of Sir John Hautville, and his effigy cut in wood placed over his monument; which, when the church was destroyed, was removed to Chew church, where it now remains, and in the account of which we have described it.

There was a chantry in this church, founded by one of the Cheynes, the last incumbent of which was Thomas Ellys, who in 1553, when the chantry was dissolved, was allowed a pension of 1l. 6s. 8d.

<sup>f</sup> From authentick evidences.

## NORTON-MALREWARD.

**I**T may not be foreign to the purpose to notice (though it would be ridiculous to controvert) the popular opinion which has prevailed from time immemorial concerning the etymology of the name of this place. Sir John Hautville, of whom we have just spoken, was a man of prodigious strength, and withal a great favourite with King Edward I. who frequented his house at the other Norton in this neighbourhood.<sup>a</sup> The King, having one day expressed his desire of knowing the extent of Sir John's manhood, and seeing a specimen of his abilities, the knight undertook to convey three of the stoutest men in his Majesty's army up to the top of Norton tower. This he effected by taking one under each arm, and the third in his teeth. Those under his arms made some resistance, for which Sir John squeezed them to death ere he reached the summit; but the other in his teeth was carried up unhurt. For this feat of strength

<sup>a</sup> See page 99.



the King gave Sir John Hautville all his estate lying in this parish of Norton, observing at the same time it was but a *small reward*; from whence (say they) comes the surname of this parish of Norton!

The family of Malreward, Maureward, in after days contracted into Marwood, who actually imposed their appellation on the place, were people of eminence and distinction in this county, and in Dorset, and Devon, and bore for their arms a chevron between three goats' heads erased. These Malrewards possessed three manors in the county of Dorset, viz. Winterborne, in Rushmore hundred, Shipton in Whitchurch, and Kingston in the hundred of St. George.<sup>b</sup> In Devonshire they had lands in Speccot in the hundred of Shebeare, in the time of Hen. III. of the grant of Nicholas Speccot;<sup>c</sup> but their principal feat was at this Norton, where they had free warren in their estate.<sup>d</sup> In a chartulary of Kingston abbey in the county of Wilts,<sup>e</sup> Sir William Malreward, knt. is set down as one of the principal benefactors to that monastery, having given thereto the church of Twiverton near Bath, and lands in Bromham, Raymore, and Keinton in Wilts. Geoffrey Malreward confirmed the grant.<sup>f</sup>

This manor does not seem to be surveyed in the Domesday record, nor does it appear when it came to the family before spoken of. The name indeed could have existed here but a short space of time; for in the reign of Edward II. John Le Sore of Backwell is certified to hold the manor of Northon-Maureward by the service of one knight's fee. 20 Ed. III. Hawisia de Button held one knight's fee here, which John de Button formerly held.<sup>g</sup> 7 Hen. VI. Thomas Ruge is certified to hold the same.<sup>h</sup> 23 Hen. VI. Robert Greyndor, esq; held at his death this manor, and the advowson of All-Saints church here of the abbot of Keynsham.<sup>i</sup> 2 Ric. III. Joane Barre, widow, died seized of this manor, with the manors of Charlcombe, Pury-Furneaux, and Cheriton, leaving Robert Bassett, esq; Lucy the wife of Thomas Choke, jun<sup>r</sup>. Joane the wife of Thomas Choke, sen<sup>r</sup>. Elizabeth the wife of John Choke, and William Strode, her next heirs.<sup>k</sup> Bassett, the first-mentioned, became possessed of Norton, and for a term of years leased it to David Brooke, esq. In 1701 the executors of Sir William Bassett of Claverton, under the authority of a decree in chancery, sold this and other manors to Richard Holder, esq; whose son, Robert Holder, in 1718 sold the same to Francis Freeman, and Samuel Prigg, esqrs. and it now jointly belongs to Sir George Onesiphorus Paul, bart. and to Francis Adams, esq; from their mothers, the coheiresses of Mr. Freeman.

Norton-Malreward is a small parish, under the south brow of Dundry hill, twelve miles west from Bath, and six south from Bristol. It contains eighteen houses, and about one hundred inhabitants.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster. The Rev. Mr. Butler is both patron and incumbent.

<sup>a</sup> Hutchins's Dorset.<sup>c</sup> Sir W. Pole's MSS.<sup>d</sup> Cart. 26 Edw. I.<sup>e</sup> Cartular. de Keinton MS.<sup>f</sup> Mon. Angl. i. 888.<sup>g</sup> Lib. Feod.<sup>h</sup> Ibid.<sup>i</sup> Efc.<sup>k</sup> Ibid.

The church consists of a nave leaded, and a chancel and porch tiled. At the west end is a square embattled tower, forty feet high, containing two bells.

On the north wall of the chancel there is a small stone inscribed to the memory of Robert Paine, formerly rector of this church, who died Dec. 11, A. D. 1720, aged 91. And on the floor another to Mary the wife of the said Robert Paine, who died Jan. 29, 1714, aged 86.

Against the south wall of the nave is an elegant monument of white and grey marble, inscribed-----“ To the memory of Shute Adams, esq; who departed this life on the 10th day of January 1766, aged 48; and of Frances his wife, who died the 26th of January 1775, aged 55.”-----Arms: Quarterly, first and fourth *vert*, a pale *argent*, between two griffins *segreant or*. Second and third, three lozenges, *argent*.

## S T O W E Y,

A Small parish adjoining to Chew-Stoke eastward, consisting of about twenty houses, most of which are thatched, and so surrounded with lofty elms and other wood as not to be seen at any distance. In a lane near the church a spring rises, and flows along the west side of the street in its way to the river at Pensford. The Annotator on Camden mentioning this, observes it to be of a very petrifying quality, but at present it retains no more of it than serves to form slight incrustations round sticks and other bodies, which it passes over. It is very remarkable, however, that no person who drinks frequently of this water, was ever known to have the stone or gravel.

The manor of Stowey was held in the Conqueror's time by Dodo a Thane, as we read in the survey:

“ Dodo holds STAWE. Siwold held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for “ three virgates of land. The arable is three carucates. In demesne is one carucate, “ and three servants, and six villanes, and two cottagers, and a mill untaxed, and five “ acres of meadow, and thirty acres of pasture, and three acres of wood. It was for- “ merly, and is now worth twenty shillings.”

7 Hen. VI. it was found, by an inquisition taken at Axbridge, that John Candell held half a knight's fee in Stowey in the hundred of Chew, which Hamon Fitz-Richard formerly held.<sup>b</sup> The manor is now the property of Mrs. Jones, who resides here.

The living is a vicarage in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster, and in the patronage of the Bishop of Bath and Wells. The Rev. Mr. Sayle is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and is a small structure, consisting of one aisle, with a tower at the west end containing five small bells. At the east end of the nave is

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Feod.



a very elegant mural monument of white marble, on the tablet of which is this inscription:—"Sacred to the memories of William Jones of this parish, esq; who died Jan. 4, 1748, aged 69. He was a commissioner of the peace in the reigns of Queen Anne, King George the First, and of his present Majesty; which trust he discharged with great candour and impartiality. He was second son of Samuel Jones, of Ramsbury in the county of Wilts, esq. Likewise of Elizabeth his wife, who died Dec. 26, 1743, aged 69. She was in every part of her life worthy of imitation for all virtues and christian graces. She was daughter of John Strachey, of Sutton-Court, esq; by Jane his wife, one of the daughters and coheiresses of George Hodges, of Wedmore in this county. And also of Richard Jones, son of the abovesaid William and Elizabeth Jones, who died March 14, 1724, aged 17."-----The arms of Jones are, Per pale, *azure* and *gules*, three lions rampant, *argent*.

On a stone in the chancel floor:—"Edwardus Barnard, hujus ecclesiæ vicarius, obiit Februarij xiiº. An. Dom. 1658, ætat. suæ 72."

On another stone:—"In memory of the Rev. Mr. A'Deane, vicar of this parish, who departed the 11th of September 1773, aged 58."

On the outside walls of the church is found the velvet orange-coloured moss, very bright and lively.

In this parish was born Parsons, the Jesuit, rector of the English college at Rome, where he died, and was buried A. D. 1610.

## T I M S B U R Y

**I**S a village pleasantly situated about eight miles west from Bath, consisting of about fifty houses, most of which form a street near the church, which stands on elevated ground, with a fine vale on the south, and commanding a rich and extensive prospect. The lands are mostly pasture, and well wooded with elm, and are worth from fifteen to thirty shillings an acre. Here are several large coal-works, from which, and those at Clutton, the city of Bath is mostly supplied. The price at the pit's mouth is threepence per bushel. Varieties of fossils are found here, and some curious lichens and polypodies. From the top of a lofty eminence called Timsbury Slade, issues a fine spring of excellent soft water, which, forming a rivulet, passes through the village. From this high land there is a beautiful prospect to the south and west.

The name of this place has been differently called, as *Timslarough*, *Timeslarove*, and *Temslury*, and in the Norman Record it passes through two appellations. It is thus described in two separate parcels, one as the Bishop of Coutance's land, and the other as that of Odo Flandrensis:

"William

“ William holds of the Bishop TEMESBARE. Ape held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is three carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and two servants, and two villanes, and one cottager with one plough. There are two parts of a mill rendering three shillings, and twenty-six acres of meadow, and as many of pasture. It was worth twenty-six shillings, now fifty shillings.

“ To this manor are added two hides, which Sibe held in the time of King Edward for a manor, and gelded for as much. The arable is two carucates, and there are with it one servant, and one villane, and three cottagers. There is a third part of a mill rendering two shillings, and sixteen acres of meadow, and as much of pasture. It was worth fourteen shillings, now thirty shillings.”<sup>a</sup>

“ Odo Flandrensis (or of Flanders) holds TIMESBERIE. Gonuerd held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is four carucates. There are two ploughs, and five villanes, and three cottagers, and a mill of forty pence rent, and forty acres of meadow wanting one, and thirty-nine acres of pasture. It is worth three pounds.”<sup>b</sup>

In the time of Henry III. these lands were the property of the family of Waddone, of whom was Henry de Waddone,<sup>c</sup> and in the succeeding reign of Edw. I. Humfrey de Waddone, who is certified to hold at his death the manor and advowson of Tymmeresbarue of the King in chief by knight's service. His heir was Michael de Waddone.<sup>d</sup> 28 Hen. VI. William de Paulton died seized hereof, leaving for his heirs Joane the wife of John Kelly, and Agnes the wife of Nicholas St. Loe.<sup>e</sup> The St. Loes had this manor some time, but alienated it, and it was afterwards possessed by the Sambornes and the Pophams; it was lately purchased out of Chancery by Jacob Mogg, esq; of High-Littleton, Mr. Crang of this parish, Mr. Savage of Midsummer-Norton, and the late Mr. Alexander Adams.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster, valued in 1292 at nine marks three shillings and fourpence, out of which a portion of ten shillings was paid to the monks of Farley.<sup>f</sup> It is in the patronage of Baliol College in Oxford, and the Rev. Mr. Wood is the present incumbent.

The church is a small edifice pleasantly situated, and surrounded with fir trees; it is sixty feet in length, and thirty-two in breadth. It consists of a nave, chancel, south aisle, and porch, all leaded; at the west end is a square embattled tower forty feet high, in which are six bells.

On an old stone tomb in the chancel is the effigies of a man in armour, and over it is a mural monument of stone, the cornice of which is supported by two small Corinthian columns at each end three feet high. Of the inscription on the tablet nothing more can be discovered than that the monument was erected to the memory of Sir Barnaby Samborne, who all his life shewed his affection to his king and country.

On the left is a neat mural monument of white marble, inscribed on the tablet, “ Without this wall lyeth the body of Thomas Samborne, esq; son of Capt. Samborne.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday. <sup>b</sup> Ib. <sup>c</sup> Mag. Rot. 32 Hen. III. <sup>d</sup> Esc. 14 Ed. I. <sup>e</sup> Esc. 28 Hen. VI. <sup>f</sup> Tax. Spirit.



He died October 23, 1723, aged 36. Within the communion rails lieth the body of Rebecca Samborne, daughter of the said Captain Samborne. She died Jan. 20, 1747, aged 66."

On the south side of the chancel is a very neat mural monument of white marble, inscribed:—"Near this place lieth the body of Bartholomew Deeke, who was forty-two years rector of this parish. He died Jan. 16, 1731, aged 69. Also the body of Hannah, relict of the said Bartholomew Deeke, who died Jan. 3, 1743, aged 80. Also the body of Bartholomew, second son of the said Bartholomew and Hannah Deeke, who died Feb. 17, 1721, aged 22. Also of Thomas their eldest son, who died May 25, 1763, aged 68."

In the south aisle is a mural monument of stone, inscribed,

"Within this aisle lie part of the ancient family of the Sambornes.

Thomas, eldest son of Sir Barnaby, was	Audry Samborne, March 4, 1700.
interred Jan. 30, 1636.	Thomas Samborne, esq; Nov. 14, 1715.
Mary Samborne, June 14, 1658.	Rebecca Samborne, his widow, Nov. 15,
Sufannah Samborne, April 3, 1663.	1726.
Philadelphia Samborne, Feb. 24, 1667.	Elizabeth their daughter, Oct. 19, 1743.
Elizabeth Samborne, July 17, 1678.	Mary their daughter, Feb. 3, 1746.
Mawdley Samborne, esq; Feb. 24, 1678.	Martha their daughter, Jan. 12, 1750."
Mary his daughter, Nov. 22, 1694.	

In the porch floor is a stone inscribed:

"Rev. James Crang, B. A. died July 30, 1779, aged 24."

Lands in this parish formerly belonged to St. Mary Magdalen's hospital in Bath.

The annual number of christenings in this parish is on an average seventeen, the burials sixteen.







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THE HUNDRED OF  
C H E W T O N

**I**S divided into three separate parts; the first, containing a great number of parishes, is situated southward from the hundred of Chew; the second, containing only one parish, lies betwixt the hundreds of Wrington, Redcliff and Bedminster, and Winterstoke; and the last, containing also one parish, is almost environed by the hundred of Winterstoke, and situated on the Bristol Channel. Its lords were those of the great barony of Chewton under Mendip. 17 Edw. III. it was found not to the King's damage to grant licence to Henry Fitz-Roger to give the bailiwick of the bedelary of the hundred of Chewton to Thomas de Panes, for the term of his life. And the said bailiwick is certified to be held of the King in capite by the service of doing the King's executions, and the mandates of the steward in the same hundred.\*

\* Inq. ad quod damnum 17 Edw. III.

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C H E W T O N - M E N D I P,

Or, THE TOWN UPON THE CHEW,

**I**S additionally stiled Mendip, by reason of its situation under that mountain, and to distinguish it from Chewton-Keynsham, so called from its vicinity to that town. It lies in the great turnpike-road from Bristol to Wells, being fourteen miles and a half distant from the former, and from the latter five, and consists of one street nearly a mile in length. The parish itself is very large in its bounds, extending some ways four, and others six or seven miles. In that part of it which lies on Mendip hills there are many pits, where lead ore and lapis calaminaris have formerly been dug in large quantities; but there are only two mines of the latter now wrought.

This great manor was before the Conquest the possession of Queen Editha, wife of Edward the Confessor;<sup>a</sup> but it was soon brought into the Conqueror's hands, and held by him when the Norman Record was composed.

"The King holds CIWETUNE. There are twenty-nine hides. In the time of King Edward it gelded for fourteen hides. The arable is forty carucates. Thereof in demesne are eighteen hides, and there are nine carucates, and twenty servants, and two coliberts, and eighteen villanes, and twenty-five cottagers, with nineteen ploughs. There are five mills, rendering thirty shillings wanting five pence, and one hundred acres of meadow. Pasture two miles long, and one mile broad. A wood one mile in length and breadth. In Bath four burgesses pay forty pence. It yields fifty pounds by tale. In the time of Queen Editha it yielded thirty pounds.

"The abbot of Jumieges holds the church of this manor with half a hide of land. There are two carucates and a half, and two servants, and two villanes, and eight bordars, and eight cottagers. It was and is worth forty shillings."<sup>b</sup>

In the time of Henry II. Chewton was the land of Geoffrey Martel, a person of eminence, being chief butler to the King, and of an ancient family chiefly seated in Dorsetshire from the time of the Conquest.<sup>c</sup> To which Geffery succeeded John, Ivo, William, and Roger Martel, whose daughter and coheirefs Joan brought it by marriage to Reginald, younger son of Reginald Fitz-Peter, who died seized of it 14 Edw. I. having held it of the King in chief by the service of half a knight's fee.<sup>d</sup> After this we find the manor and hundred of Chewton in the possession of John de Vivonia, who died 7 Edw. II. and after him Joan de Vivonia is certified to hold the hundred and manor of Chewton, reversionary to Reginald Fitz-Reginald and Peter Fitz-Reginald.<sup>e</sup> Which Peter Fitz-Reginald soon after came to the whole possession of this manor, but died 16 Edw. II. and was succeeded in his estates by Henry Fitz-Roger, who had married his relation.<sup>f</sup> 23 Edw. III. this Henry Fitz-Roger obtained a licence from the King to refound at his manor of Chewton under Mendip a certain oratory of the order of the Brethren of St. Cross, near the Tower at London, and to give four messuages and three acres of land in Chewton to the prior and brethren of the said order, for the celebration of divine service therein.<sup>g</sup> This Henry Fitz-Roger died 26 Edw. III. In the succeeding reign the manor and hundred of Chewton were held by Sir John Bonville, in right of Elizabeth his wife, of the King in chief by military service. He died 20 Ric. II. leaving by the said Elizabeth, William his son and heir. Which William was also a knight, and having been in the wars of France in the times of Henry V. and VI. had summons to parliament in 1449 by the title of Lord Bonville of Chewton, a title which ended with his life soon after the second battle of St. Alban's between the forces of York and Lancaster, where he lost his head. In his time great disputes arose between the tenants at Chewton and the prior of Greenoar cell upon Mendip within this parish,<sup>h</sup> concerning certain incroachments made by the miners, and some outrages committed by the tenants. These matters arose to so great a height, that a formal complaint was pre-

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday. <sup>b</sup> Ibid. <sup>c</sup> Cart. antiq. <sup>d</sup> Efc. <sup>e</sup> Ibid. <sup>f</sup> Cart. antiq. <sup>g</sup> Inq. ad quod damnum.

<sup>h</sup> It was a cell to Glastonbury Abbey, now an extraparochial farm betwixt Chewton and Priddy.



sented by the prior to the King, who commanded Lord Chief Justice Choke to go down into the county and compromise the difference. This was the origin of the settling the laws of the miners of Mendip, which are still observed; and at this day a court is occasionally held here, called the Minery Court, at which all disputes between the miners are tried and finally settled. Any miner who finds himself aggrieved, complains to an officer called the Ledreeve, who is obliged by his office to attend to all such complaints, and to summon a jury of twenty-four miners, who meet and hold a court, wherein all such cases are tried and adjudged by the laws of Mendip, from whence there is no appeal. Banishment from the hill is the highest punishment this court has power to inflict; they have smaller of various kinds.<sup>1</sup>

This great barony of Chewton, coming into the hands of the crown, by the attainder of Henry Duke of Suffolk, was granted by Queen Mary in the first year of her reign to Sir Edward Waldegrave, knt. one of her Majesty's privy council, and master of the great wardrobe. In 1554 this Sir Edward was elected one of the knights for Somersetshire, and having married Frances daughter of Sir Edward Nevil, knt. died Sept. 1, 1561, leaving issue Charles his son and heir, and Nicholas Waldegrave of Borely in Essex, as also three daughters, Mary, Magdalen, and Catherine.

Charles Waldegrave, his son and heir, was of Staining-Hall in Norfolk, and of Chewton. He married Jeronyma, daughter to Sir Henry Jerningham, of Coffee-Hall in the county of Norfolk, knt. and by her had issue Edward, who succeeded him, and two daughters, Frances and Magdalen.

Edward Waldegrave received the honour of knighthood in 1607, and at the breaking out of the civil war behaved so worthily in defence of the royal cause, that King Charles I. conferred on him in 1643 the dignity of a baronet. He married Eleanor daughter of Sir Thomas Lovel, of Harling in Norfolk, knt. and was father of Sir Henry Waldegrave, bart.

Which Sir Henry was styled of Staining-Hall, and married to his first wife Ann, daughter of Edward Paston, esq; by whom he had seven sons and four daughters. To his second wife he married Catherine, daughter of Richard Bacon, esq; by whom he had six sons and six daughters. He died Oct. 10, 1658.

Sir Charles Waldegrave, bart. his eldest son and heir, was by letters patent bearing date Jan. 20, 1685-6, 1 Jac. II. created Baron Waldegrave, of Chewton in the county of Somerset; and in February the year following was appointed comptroller of the King's household. Upon the revolution he retired into France, where he died at Paris in 1689. He married Henrietta, natural daughter of James II. by Mrs. Arabella Churchill, and by her had two sons, James and Henry, and a daughter whose name was Arabella.

James, the eldest son and heir, being a person of great honour and abilities, served their Majesties Geo. I. and II. in the capacity of ambassador to several foreign courts; and whilst he was abroad in the service of his country, was, Sept. 13, 1729, created Viscount Chewton and Earl Waldegrave. His Lordship married Mary, daughter

<sup>1</sup> The laws of the miners were printed at London 1687, 12mo.

of Sir John Webb, of Hatherop in Gloucestershire, bart. and was father of three sons, James the second Earl Waldegrave, John who died in infancy, and John who succeeded his brother as third Earl Waldegrave; as also one daughter of the name of Henrietta. The above-mentioned James Earl Waldegrave died in 1741, at his seat at Navestock in the county of Essex, in the church of which he lies interred.

James Earl Waldegrave, the second of that name, succeeded his father in titles and estates; and having gone through divers important offices in the court of his late Majesty, died of the small-pox, April 28, 1763, and was also buried at Navestock. He married Maria, second daughter of Sir Edward Walpole, knight of the Bath, and by her had three daughters, Elizabeth-Laura, Charlotte-Maria, and Anna-Horatia. Deceasing without male issue, his Lordship was succeeded by his only surviving brother

John, third and present Earl Waldegrave and Viscount Chewton, who inherits this manor, and possesses nearly the whole of the parish. His Lordship's arms are, Party per pale *argent* and *gules*.

There are certain small rents paid by some tenants of this manor, called *Sacrafeld Rents*, which probably originated from some religious institution.\*

There is a large hamlet belonging to this parish, called NORTH-WIDCOMB, lying near Hinton-Blewet, about five miles northward from Chewton, and containing about twenty houses. The manor of this hamlet in early times belonged to the barons Beauchamp of Hatch, into which family it came with many other manors in this county by the marriage of John de Beauchamp with Cecilia one of the sisters and coheiresses of William de Fortibus. This John de Beauchamp died 12 Edw. I.<sup>1</sup> By an inquisition taken 48 Edw. III. it was found that Matthew Gournay and Alice his wife held this hamlet for the term of their lives, of the grant of Alice late wife of John Beauchamp, who had it in dower.<sup>m</sup> The Gournays had it for some time, and after them the Tiptots. Sir John Tiptot Lord Powis died seized of it 21 Hen. VI. John his son and heir aged eighteen years. 33 Hen. VI. Edmund Duke of Somerset held it at his death.<sup>n</sup> Leland calls it *Whitcombe*, and tells us Gurney was lord of it, and of *Riche-monte* castle by Mendepe.<sup>o</sup>

We learn from Domesday-Book that there was a church at Chewton so early as the Norman Conquest. This church, with the appendant lands, was held by the Abbot of the famous Benedictine abbey of St. Peter at Jumieges, in the diocese of Rouen in Normandy, founded A. D. 664 by St. Phillibert and King Clovis II.<sup>p</sup> The abbot and convent of that monastery for a long series of years continued patrons of this rectory, with the chapels of Easton-major and minor, Emborow, Farrington, and Paulton; and upon the resignation of the rector, Feb. 17, 1241, they prevailed upon Joceline, bishop of Bath, to appropriate the rectory to them.<sup>q</sup> When the alien priories were dissolved by act of parliament, 2 Hen. V. and all their estates vested in the crown, the King granted this appropriation to the Carthusian priory of Jesus de Bethleme de Shene in the county of Surry, which he founded in the year 1413.

\* See Cowel's Interpreter.

<sup>1</sup> Efc.

<sup>m</sup> Ibid.

<sup>n</sup> Ibid.

<sup>o</sup> Lel. Itin. vii. 88.

<sup>p</sup> Account of the Alien Priories, i. 15.

<sup>q</sup> Reg. Well. iii. 183.



In 1292 this rectory was taxed at thirty-two marks and eightpence halfpenny, and the vicarage at twelve marks. It paid a pension of five marks to the priory of Hastryng in Normandy, which was a cell to the abbey of Jumieges.

The living is a vicarage in the deanery of Frome. The patron is Robert Kingsmill, esq; and the Rev. Dr. Arthur Henry Annesley the present incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, stands on a considerable eminence on the west side of the street, and makes a noble appearance, having one of the finest Gothick towers in the county, one hundred and twenty-six feet high to the top of the battlements, and surmounted with beautiful Gothick pinnacles at the angles fifteen feet high above all. This tower contains a clock and five large bells. The church consists of a nave, chancel, and south aisle, covered with lead.

At the east end of the aisle is an old stone tomb eight feet long, and three and a half high, whereon lie the effigies of William Lord Bonville in armour, and Elizabeth Lady Bonville his wife.

On the north side of the chancel is an old stone mural monument with the following inscription:—"Reverendus et assiduus Jesu Christi Minister D. Edmundus Quarles, rector de Chewton, hic situs est. Item reverendus dominus Solomon Quarles, rector de Lambourn in agro Berkerensi, Edmundi filius, hic sepultus est. Una cum Maria Quarles, Edmundi nuper uxore, et Solomonis Matre. Deponuntur etiam hic mortalitatis exuviae Gualteri Brice, armigeri, Rebekæ filiae unicæ D. Edmundi Quarles mariti; necnon dominæ Annæ Brice, Gualteri et Rebekæ uxoris filiae. Et D. Annabellæ Copleston, Joannis Copleston, equitis aurati, qui Rebekæ, Gualteri Brice armigeri, relictae, nupsit, filiae: omnesque resurrectionem felicem unà expectant.

Edmund Quarles died Oct. 31, 1687. Solomon Quarles, Nov. 1, 1671.

Mary Quarles, April 13, 1687. Ann Brice, April 2, 1680."

On a black stone in the chancel floor:—"Hic situs est Nathaniel Till Adam, cujus mens sincera, lingua docta, manus munda fuit: hunc unum, moribus gravem, et pietate insignem, hæc parochia per annos octo fidelem Dei ministrum habuit. Obijt 23 Oct. 1705, ætat. 33."

In the aisle and nave are several inscriptions to the family of York, as also to Palmer, Adams, and Curtis.

Over the north door of the church is a fine Saxon arch of excellent workmanship.

In the church-yard there are two very old yew-trees in a decaying state. The body of one of them is nine feet in circumference.

A free school for teaching ten poor children has been founded here by the inhabitants of the place, who inclosed Chew-Down; the rents of which, being 8l. a year, are appropriated to this school, which, with forty shillings a year given by Lord Waldegrave, is the whole endowment.

A fair is annually held here on Holy-Thurfdlay, formerly for cattle, now for toys, &c.

Richard Jenkins, esq; has a very neat seat in this parish, on an eminence near the road, built in a very elegant Gothick stile of architecture.

## B R O C K L E Y.

**T**HIS is a small parish in the second subdivision of the hundred, nine miles south-west from Bristol, and three north from Wrington, in the turnpike-road from Bristol to Yatton and Congersbury. The situation is very pleasant, and consists of great variety of surface; and from some parts the prospects are very beautiful.

About a quarter of a mile eastward of the church is a very fine romantick glen, called *Brockley-Combe*, about half a mile in length, and very narrow; each side being a steep slope formed of rugged rocks mixed with timber-trees, yews, forest and other shrubs, that grow out of the crevices of the stone. In the deepest part the trees are very lofty, and the rocks almost inaccessible to the height of near three hundred feet, projecting in many places through, and towering above the tops of the branches, with a rude and astonishing grandeur. The steep ascent and rugged surface of the rocks on each side are rendered very romantick by the fantastically twisted forms of the roots of many trees and shrubs which spring from the crevices, and spread their branches in the most picturesque manner. Along the bottom is a fine gravel walk, and nearly in the center of the Combe is a neat cottage, where many resort to drink tea in the summer season. If this spot had the advantage of water, it would be a second Matlock on a smaller scale, but not less romantick and beautiful. It belongs to John Pigot, esq.

On the east side of this parish some lead ore has been discovered; and great quantities of a peculiar kind of stone, composed of a great number of columnar divisions, like the Giant's Causeway in Ireland.

In this parish there is a very ancient yew-tree, seventeen feet in circumference.

The manor of Brockley was never more considerable than at present; indeed for several centuries it is hardly noticed as a manor. In the Conqueror's time a Saxon thane held it, as we read in the Norman record:

"Eldred holds BROCHELIE. The same held it in the time King Edward, and gelded for four hides. The arable is four carucates, and so many there are, and six villanes, and seven cottagers, and sixteen acres of meadow. It is worth thirty shillings."<sup>a</sup>

19 Edw. II. Peter de Sancta Cruce, or St. Cross, held half a knight's fee in Brockley, which was afterwards held by the family de Ashton, who seem to have had

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.



the manor.<sup>b</sup> 41 Edw. III. Sir Robert de Ashton died seized of certain lands within this parish, which descended to the Berkleys.

By an inquisition taken at Langport 17 Oct. 20 Hen. VIII. it appeared that Richard the son and heir of Humphry Harvey died Jan 4, 17 Hen. VIII. seized of one third of the manor of Brockley, five messuages, one cottage, one windmill, one dove-house, five gardens, twenty-three acres of arable, fifteen of meadow, eighty-eight acres of wood, and tenpence rent in Brockley, together with the advowson of the church. Which premises were certified to be holden of the King as of his barony of Wigmore by knight's service. Nicholas Harvey, his son and heir, was then of the age of eleven years.<sup>c</sup> Sir James Perceval was trustee of the family estates in Brockley, Backwell, and Barrow, for the use of Richard Harvey above-mentioned.<sup>d</sup> Of this family of Harvey the manor of Brockley was at length purchased by Thomas Pigott, of the kingdom of Ireland, esq; who married Florence, widow of Thomas Smyth, of Long-Ashton, esq; and it is now the property of his descendant the present John Pigott, esq; who has a pleasant seat near the church.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster, the patronage is in John Pigott, esq; and the Rev. Wadham Pigott is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Nicholas, is a small structure, consisting of a nave partly leaded, chancel, and two small aisles, and a porch tiled. At the west end is a plain embattled tower, containing one bell. The south aisle belongs to Brockley-Court, and under it is a vault of the Pigott family.

In the chancel floor there is this memorial:—"Here lieth the body of Judith, younger daughter of Nicholas Harvey, esq; of this parish, who died the 29th of December 1652, aged eighteen years."—The arms of Harvey were, *Sable*, a fesse *or*, between three squirrels sejant *argent*, cracking nuts *or*. Crest, a squirrel sejant *argent*, tail *or*, cracking a nut of the last.

On a black stone in the middle passage there is a Latin inscription to the memory of William Stephens, A. M. rector of Weston-super-Mare, who died July 13, 1694, aged 43. Arms: Party per chevron, in chief two falcons volant.

Mr. Richard Durban gave to the parish of Brockley 25l. the interest thereof to be given in bread to the poor of the said parish, the Sunday after Christmas-day, and the Sunday after New-Year's-day yearly for ever. 1753.

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Feod.

<sup>c</sup> Coles's Esch. in the British Museum.

<sup>d</sup> House of Yvery, i. 415.



## K I N G S T O N - S E Y M O U R .

**W**ESTWARD from Brockley, but divided from it by the hundred of Winterstoke, is Kingston-Seymour, lying in the last subdivision of this hundred, and contiguous to the Bristol Channel. It is a small straggling place, consisting of forty-two houses and two hundred and fifty inhabitants. The lands are mostly arable, and very rich, being worth on an average thirty-five shillings an acre throughout the parish. Two rivers here discharge themselves into the sea. From its situation, this place has frequently been overflowed; and we learn from a tablet in the church, that on Jan. 20, 1606, there was a terrible inundation in this and many other adjoining parishes. The sea-banks were broken down, many persons drowned, and a great number of cattle and goods carried away by the violence of the waves, and entirely lost. The water in the church was five feet high, and the greatest part lay on the ground for ten days. The lands here are separated by ditches more than hedges; there is but little wood, and elm the principal. There are many large orchards.

Of this place we read the following account in the Conqueror's survey:

"William holds of the Bishop [of Coutance] CHINGESTONE. Eldred held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is seventeen carucates. In demesne are three carucates, with one servant, and eighteen villanes, and four cottagers, with eleven ploughs. There are forty acres of pasture. It was and is worth six pounds. Of the land of this manor Fulcran holds of the Bishop one carucate of arable, and has on it two cottagers. It is worth three shillings.

"The same William holds CHINGESTONE of the Bishop. Four Thanes held in the time of King Edward, and gelded for four hides and a half. The arable is seven carucates. There are nine villanes, and eight cottagers, with one servant, having [amongst them] six ploughs and a half. It was and is worth sixty shillings. This manor in the time of King Edward was assessed at only one hide."

In the time of Hen. II. the manor of Kingston was the possession of the family of Malherbe, who were lords also of Shipham, Rowborough, and many other adjacent manors.<sup>b</sup> But in the ninth year of Ric. I. Robert Malherbe, or de Malherbe, (as he is sometimes called) made a grant of this lordship to Milo de Sancto Mauro, or Seymour, from whom the place was afterwards called.<sup>c</sup> This Milo was a Baron, and one of those who conspired in arms against King John. His son Peter de Sancto Mauro lived in the time of Henry III. at Weston in Gordano, in the hundred of Portbury, which manor he held together with this of Kingston. His seal was a portcullis quartered with two chevrons.<sup>d</sup> He left issue one only daughter and heir, Maud de Sancto Mauro, who was twice married; first to Walter de Wengham, who died 8 Edw. I. and secondly, to Simon de Ludgate.<sup>e</sup> By her first husband she had four daughters, Joan the wife of Richard de Ken; Alice the wife of John de Wyke, who

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday. <sup>b</sup> Cart. antiq. <sup>c</sup> Ibid. <sup>d</sup> Seals from ancient deeds. <sup>e</sup> House of Yvery, i. 356.



died without issue; Maud, the wife of Philip de Wyke; and another Joan, the wife of Sir John de Boudon. By her second husband, Simon de Ludgate, she had one son, Laurence, surnamed (according to the mode of those times) from his mother, by reason of her noble extraction, de Sancto Mauro. Which Laurence, notwithstanding divers claims and litigations, inherited little of the patrimony; and this manor, together with the advowson of the living, was allotted to the daughters of Walter de Wengham. And ever after this the manor of Kingston appears to have been divided. But there seems to have been another branch of the Seymours who possessed lands in this parish, and were most probably descended from Laurence de Sancto Mauro above-mentioned. For it appears from ancient evidences that Henry Seymour lived here in the time of Edw. II.; and 26 Edw. III. John Seymour his son leased lands in this parish.<sup>f</sup> By an inquisition taken 20 Edw. III. it was found that Maurice, the son of Maurice de Berkley, was seized of a third part of the manor of Kingston-Seymour, Thomas de Berkley his son and heir.<sup>g</sup>

42 Edw. III. John the son of Sir John de Boudon, knt. remitted to Elias Spelly, burghers of Bristol, and Agnes his wife, and the heirs and assigns of the said Elias, all his right in the manor of Kingston-Seymour, and in the advowson of the church of the said manor.<sup>h</sup> This was the son of that Sir John Boudon who married one of the co-heiresses of Wengham above-mentioned. 11 Ric. II. Catherine the wife of Sir John Thorp, knt. died seized of another third part of this manor, which she held of the King in capite by knight's service, together with the right of a third turn of presenting to the church of the said manor.<sup>i</sup> 6 Hen. IV. John de Kenn possessed either the whole or part of this manor.<sup>k</sup> A third of the manor was again in the Berkley family 1 Hen. VI. when Sir Maurice Berkley died seized of it.<sup>l</sup> 28 Hen. VI. Thomas Norton held a third part of the manor of Kingston-Seymour, and was succeeded by his brother Walter Norton in his estates.<sup>m</sup> Another third was held about the same time, with the advowson of the church, by Robert Kenn, esq; whose son and heir 31 Hen. VI. was John Kenn, of the age of two years.<sup>n</sup> By an inquisition taken at Yeovil 24 April, 6 Hen. VIII. it was found that Thomas Norton died seized of one third of this manor and the advowson of the church;<sup>o</sup> which premises were inherited by Andrew Norton his son and heir, who is certified to have held them 9 Hen. VIII. as of the dutchy of Lancaster, by the service of the third part of a knight's fee.<sup>p</sup>

By another inquisition it appeared that Robert Bulbeke died May 14, 16 Hen. VIII. seized of six messuages, four hundred acres of arable, meadow, and pasture, and five of wood in Kingston-Seymour, the half whereof was held of John Kenn, esq; as of his third of the manor of Kingston, by the fourth part of one knight's fee. The other half of the premises was held of Thomas Snygg, as of his third part of the manor of Kingston aforesaid, by what service it was not known.<sup>q</sup> In the latter end of the reign of Elizabeth the manor was held by Christopher Kenn, esq; of the King as of the honour of Trowbridge, parcel of the dutchy of Lancaster.<sup>r</sup> Of late years it belonged to Mr. Vaughan of Shirehampton, who left at his death a daughter, who joined with

<sup>f</sup> Cart. antiq.

<sup>g</sup> Esc.

<sup>h</sup> Rot. claus. 42 Edw. III.

<sup>i</sup> Esc.

<sup>k</sup> Cart. antiq.

<sup>l</sup> Esc.

<sup>m</sup> Ibid.

<sup>n</sup> Ibid.

<sup>o</sup> Inq. post mort. Th. Norton,

<sup>p</sup> Lib. Feod.

<sup>q</sup> Esc.

<sup>r</sup> Ib.

trustees in selling the estate, which was bought by Messrs. Hale, Worrall, and Prosser; but now belongs two-thirds to John Pigott, esq; and one-third to Mr. John Filer.

The church of Kingston-Seymour, which is a rectory in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster, was in 1292 valued at twenty marks.\* The gift is in Lord Paulet, and the Rev. Mr. Tudor is the present incumbent.

The church consists of a nave, chancel, and aisle on the south side; at the west end is a tower with a stone spire. The tower contains a clock and five bells.

On the north wall, in a frame, is

“ A memorandum of a law suit happening in the year 1702, occasioned by the assessors of Yatton taxing certain lands lying in this parish of Kingstone-Seamore, called Colefree Land; the occupiers of which refusing to pay their rates, the other took distress upon the said lands, for which this parish brought an action against them the 15th and 16th of March 170<sup>2</sup>. This cause was tried at Taunton, before Baron Price, when this parish obtained a verdict against the parish of Yatton, and afterwards got great costs of suit.—Also, Nov. 27 ensuing, the inhabitants sustained great loss of cattle, sheep, and corn, with many mows both of corn and hay; the violent tempest breaking down the sea-banks, let in the salt water.”

“ Benefaction. Mr. Edward Sefs of this parish gave twenty shillings yearly on Twelfth-day, to be paid out of his land lying in this parish for ever, viz. ten shillings for the preaching a sermon, and the other ten shillings to be given in bread to the second poor having no relief.”

In the church-yard is an old tomb of one of the Bulbeck family.

\* Taxat. Spiritual.

## C A M E L Y.

THIS parish lies in the large division of the hundred, and is situated twelve miles west from Bath, ten south from Bristol, and nine north from Wells, in a woody but pleasant country, agreeably varied with hills and vallies, well cultivated and watered. The number of houses is forty-six, and of inhabitants about two hundred and sixty. Of the houses thirty-four are in the hamlet called *Temple-Cloud*, the rest are scattered round the church. The soil is mostly of the stone-rush kind, and a rich gravelly sand, with a little coarse marl. The lands are mostly pasture. In this parish are several quarries of excellent pennant stone, considerable quantities of which are sent to Bath for paving the footways in the streets. This stone is found at about six feet deep below the surface; the strata lie in a dipping position, and are more than twenty feet in thickness. Here are two large woods, containing upwards of one hundred and twenty acres, in which is a great quantity of large oak timber, and plenty of



of coppice wood. A little brook, called Broadmead, rises in this parish, and, after passing through Littleton, joins the Cam at Camerton, whence it goes through Dunkerton and Midford to the Avon.

The manor of Camely was given by William the Conqueror to the Bishop of Coutance, who, residing for some time in these parts, kept it in his own hands as demesne:

“The Bishop himself holds CAMELEY. Two Thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for nine hides, and half a virgate of land. The arable is nine carucates. In demesne are three carucates, and thirteen servants, and nine villanes, and one bordar, and seven cottagers, with four ploughs. There is a mill of five shillings rent, and one hundred and twenty acres of meadow, and thirty acres of pasture, and fifty acres of coppice-wood. It was worth seven pounds, now ten pounds.

“Of the land of this manor Humphrey holds one hide, and has there one carucate, and three villanes, and one cottager, with one plough. There are forty acres of meadow. It is worth twenty shillings.”

The next account that we meet with of this manor is a memorandum in the red book of Bath, now in the possession of Lord Weymouth, which says that Alexander de Alneto gave the manor of Camely, in the year 1153, to the church of St. Peter at Bath.<sup>a</sup> This Alexander de Alneto, and Erneburga his wife, were buried in the said church of St. Peter, and the following inscription is placed on the right hand of the entrance to their memory:

“*Hic jacet Alexander de Alneto, et Erneburga uxor ejus, et Eulius de Alneto, filius eorum, et Lucia de Mariscis, filia eorum, et Jordanus de Mariscis, filius ejusdem Lucie, et Willelmus de Mariscis, filius ejusdem Jordani.*”

It is not easy to reconcile this grant of the manor with the other accounts of it, which for a length of time after the above date assign its possession to the family de Marisco, who intermarried with the above-mentioned de Alnetos, Dannos, or Dandos, (as they were afterwards written.) 12 Edw. I. William de Marisco held this manor, and after him Stephen de Marisco, or Marreys. 4 Ric. II. James Boteler was found to be heir to the estate.<sup>c</sup> 7 Hen. V. James Boteler Earl of Ormond held it at his death, James his son and heir being of the age of twelve years.<sup>d</sup> This manor was held in the time of Edw. III. and Ric. II. of the family of Burnell, as of their manor of Compton-Dando.<sup>e</sup> An inquisition taken at Wells 22d July, 4 Edw. VI. after the death of Richard Watkyn Vaughan, shews that the said Vaughan died 20 April, 2 Edw. VI. seized of the manors of Camely, Marksbury, Houndstreet, and Brean, leaving Polydore Watkyn Vaughan his son and heir, then of the age of eighteen years and a half.<sup>f</sup> A manor in Camely likewise belonged to the monks of Glastonbury.<sup>g</sup> 13 Eliz. the manor of Camely, with divers lands and tenements were held by John Hippesley,<sup>h</sup> and it is now the property of Henry Hippesley Coxe, esq.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domeſday. <sup>b</sup> Codex ruber Bathon. MS. <sup>c</sup> Eſc. <sup>d</sup> Ibid. <sup>e</sup> Ibid. <sup>f</sup> Inq. poſt mort. W. Vaughan.

<sup>g</sup> Roll of Glaſtonbury Abbey, in Langtoft's Chronicle, ii. 362. <sup>h</sup> Ter. Sydenham, MS.

The church, valued in 1292 at nine marks,<sup>1</sup> was appropriated to the abbey of St. Peter and Paul at Bath, and a yearly pension of one mark was paid out of the parsonage to that monastery. This pension is now paid to the crown. It is a rectory in the deanery of Frome, and in the patronage of the lord of the manor. The Rev. Mr. Seccombe is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. James. It seems to have been built (or at least repaired) by some of the family of St. Loe, whose arms, impaling a fesse between six billets, are at the west side of the tower, which is a handsome building, seventy feet high, and contains five bells. The church itself is a small building of one pace, and contains nothing remarkable. There is an inscription to the memory of Cadwallader Jones, esq; who died April 13, 1692.

<sup>1</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

## C H I L C O M P T O N.

**C**HILCOMPTON is a small parish, eleven miles west from Bath, on the great turnpike road to Wells and Bridgwater.

The name is evidently derived from the Saxon *Leald*, cold, *Lombe*, a valley, and *ton*, a town; which last is supposed to come from *ryn*, another Saxon word signifying to inclose or fortify. It has been written different ways at different periods, but, most anciently, simply *Contitone*, and *Contone*.

It is situated partly on the turnpike road, and partly in a rich woody vale, which extends northward to Midsummer-Norton. The roads are good, the cottages very decent, and an air of neatness runs through the whole village. At the head of the valley, near some romantick shaggy rocks, several springs arise, and at a little distance from their source form a rivulet, which, in its descent through the village, is intercepted by many artificial falls, over which it passes along on the east side of the street, and has a pleasing appearance. This rivulet abounds with trout and eels, and after passing through Norton, Radstock, and other places, empties itself into the river Frome, near Bradford.

The soil is various, but consists principally of two kinds, distinguished by the names *red ground*, and *marl ground*. These are both loamy good land, but the marl ground is much the best for pasture as well as corn. The marl grass, (*Trifolium Alpestre* of Linnæus and Hudson) now so generally known, owes its origin to an inhabitant of this parish, who, about fifty years ago, when the lands here were mostly common fields, collected the seeds from the Meres which divided the several properties, and increased it from year to year, so as to sell large quantities; and as it was soon much approved, its culture and circulation became general.

The



The corn grate, and white lyas stone, lie over the marl; and a species of calcareous stone, called the *red rock*, is found in the vale, (which is all red ground) and contains calcareous spar, and small quantities of iron ore. The spar is mostly found in nodules, or in the cavities and chinks of the red rock; but very little of it is transparent. A few *cornua ammonis* are sometimes found here, and some branches of coral embedded in the stone, but scarcely any other fossils.

Under a bed of fire-stone twenty yards thick, is coal, for raising which, works were begun in 1779, and are now carrying on with success. There is also another coal-work in the southern part of the parish, known by the name of Stock-hill.

The common fields were all inclosed about forty years since, by mutual consent, without act of parliament.

Part of the common called Old-Down is within the parish, on which the occupiers of lands have a right to turn stock without restriction as to time, number, or sort of cattle.

This parish contains about sixty houses, several of which are very good dwellings, and nearly two hundred and sixty inhabitants; but there are only eight resident freeholders. Here are two woods, one rather large, belonging to Lord Weymouth.

This parish is not destitute either of antiquities or natural curiosities. Of those circular cavities which run nearly in a line from Emborow to Mells, and are supposed to have been iron pits, two are within its boundaries; viz. one in a field between Broadway and Blacker's-Hill, the other under the rocks at the head of the valley. About a mile south of the principal group of houses, is an ancient encampment situate on an elevated spot, called Blacker's-Hill, near Stockhill coal-work, and one mile south-east of Old-Down inn. It is formed by the meeting of two very deep and steep-sided vallies in a point facing the south, and partly by a curvilinear double rampart and foss to the north and east; of which the greater part is entire, and the whole in good preservation. Its figure, altogether, is that of an irregular quadrant, and the area contains about fifteen acres. Of this encampment no account is to be found in any author. It is however observable, that Camalet (that is, Cadbury Castle) commands a view of Masbury Castle on Mendip, and Masbury of Chilcompton camp; hence it may be reasonably inferred, that these three camps were probably formed either by the same people, or at least about the same time, they being all of a circular form.

Now that Cadbury camp is Roman (though those of that people were usually square) has been sufficiently proved; and that Masbury, and Blacker's-Hill, were works of the same people may be fairly conjectured—not to mention a fine brass coin of M. Aurel. Antoninus, dug up at less than a mile distance.

It is certain that the Romans were particularly fond of placing their encampments in the angle made by the confluence of two rivers, as by that means they saved the trouble of other fortifications. The same reason would induce them to pitch their camp at the meeting of two deep vallies; especially when forming a situation on high ground. The vicinity also of the Roman way, called the Foss, which passes through,  
and

and gives name to the adjoining parish of Stratton, furnishes an additional proof that this encampment was a work of the Romans.

On that part of Old Down which is nearest this camp are several *tumuli*, or barrows; and a few years ago some pieces of old swords were dug up on this spot. Within the area of this encampment is a natural fissure in the rock, which lies under the surface of the earth. It is vulgarly called the *Fairy Slatts*, being from ten to twenty-one feet in depth, eighty-seven in length, and only two feet and a half in width, except in the middle, where it widens to near ten feet, so that it affords an easy passage to a single person. The descent into it is gradual, and the prominent parts on one side are opposed by corresponding hollows on the other; which seem to indicate that it was formed by some violent concussion of nature. The top is shaded with bushes and small trees, whose branches meet over it; and the fissures of the stone in the sides abound with mosses, polypody, aspleniums, maidenhair, and small ferns, some of which are curious.

In the time of William the Conqueror, this village was part of the revenue of the Bishop of Coutance in Normandy, the cathedral of which diocese was founded in 1047, the Norman Duke himself assisting at its dedication. The Bishop, whose name was Jeffery, was his particular favourite, and one of those clergy who came over with him to England to assist him in his expedition with their prayers. He was rewarded with this manor; and we find it thus recorded in Domesday:

“The same Bishop holds CONTONE. Edric held it in the reign of King Edward the Confessor, and gelded for ten hides. The arable is fourteen carucates; in demesne is one carucate; and there are four servants, and sixteen villanes, and six cottagers with six ploughs. There are two mills rented at twenty-five shillings, and fifteen acres of meadow, and one hundred acres of pasture, and fifteen acres of wood. It was and is worth ten pounds.”<sup>a</sup>

By this record it appears that here was a mill of the yearly rent of twenty-five shillings, a sum very considerable in those days. It is observable, that mills are of the highest antiquity: the ancient laws were very severe against those who did any injury to such structures, obliging the delinquent to repair the damage within thirty days, and besides to pay thirty shillings for the trespass.

Soon after the Conquest, the family of Percy became possessors of the manor of Chilcompton, and held the same for many successive reigns. In the time of Hen. V. it was the property of Sir Thomas Broke, or Brook, knt. who held it of the Bishop of Salisbury, and died seized of it 5 Hen. V. leaving Thomas Broke his son and heir, of the age of twenty-six years.<sup>b</sup> 15 Hen. VI. Joan the wife of Sir Thomas Broke, held it in a similar way, and Thomas Chedder was found to be her heir.<sup>c</sup> 7 Edw. IV. Joan the wife of Thomas Michelden was found seized of the yearly rent of thirty-one shillings and two-pence, issuing out of the manors of Chilcompton, Hinton-Bluet, and Littleton.<sup>d</sup>

In the reign of Philip and Mary, the manor was the property of the family of Seward: and 34 Eliz. Richard Seward, esq; is certified to hold the manor, and twenty-four

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> Etc.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid.

<sup>d</sup> Ibid.



messuages, two water mills, twenty-four gardens, three hundred acres of arable, two hundred of meadow, forty of pasture, thirty of wood, forty of heath, and twenty shillings rent, with the appertenances.\* The lands of Seward came afterwards to the possession of the Stockers, and the manor is now the property of Lord Weymouth.

The manor-house, now converted into a farm, is situated near the church, and is a spacious old building of stone in the form of an L. From a date at the east end, May 4, 1612, and the Stockers arms, with the initials I. S. and M. S. it appears to have been in a great measure rebuilt by some of that ancient family. A small park belonged to the house, the boundaries of which may be easily ascertained, a great part of the wall still remaining. It is now parcelled out into fields, one of which is called *Park-Field*. In the valley the vestiges of some very large fish-ponds are still discernible.

There is in this parish another ancient house which formerly belonged to the family of Werret, but is now held under Lord Weymouth. In the large centre window are the remains of some curious painted glass: 1st. A crest very perfect, and well drawn; on a Marquis's coronet, an eagle displayed proper charged on the breast with a crescent *or*. 2d. Within a circle of foliage an escutcheon with helmet, mantling, and the crest as above, the whole much defaced and inverted; but the arms appear to be, *Or*, three eagles displayed proper. 3d. Within a smaller circle, vine leaves and a hare courant. 4th. Foliage stained yellow. On the wainscot is the date 1636.

In the year 1188, Gilbert de Percy, lord of this manor, made an oblation of the grant of this church upon the altar of St. Andrew in the cathedral of Wells to found a prebend therein, which was accordingly done; but in the same year the bishop and chapter exchanged it with the prior and convent of Bradenstoke in Wiltshire, for the church of Chedder, of which the latter were patrons. The whole revenues of this church were consequently appropriated to the above-named monastery; and in 1292 the rectory was rated annually at seven marks, out of which the church of Wells received a yearly pension of two shillings.<sup>f</sup>

The living is a perpetual curacy in the deanery of Frome, and is one of the seven peculiars belonging to the Dean of Wells. It is worth about 60*l.* per annum, and in the patronage of James Tooker, of Norton-hall, esq. The Rev. Nevill Walter, LL. B. is the present incumbent.

The church is an ancient structure, eighty-four feet long, and twenty-one feet wide, and stands in the bottom of the valley at the northern extremity of the parish, within a church-yard surrounded with larch trees. It is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and consists of a nave, chancel, south aisle and porch, all covered with lead. At the west end is a large embattled tower, sixty feet high, with six bells.

In the south aisle (which formerly belonged to the Stocker family) is a vault and a very handsome old monument, built in that stile of architecture (a mixture of the Grecian and the Gothick) which prevailed from the reign of Henry VIII. to James I.

\* Ter. Sydenham, MS.

<sup>f</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

inclusive. Over a large flat stone which covers the tomb, is a flat canopy supported by six columns with Grecian capitals, and terminated by a cornice, the frieze of which is embellished with foliage. Round the edge of the tomb-stone is this inscription:

Here liethe the bodi of Richard Seward, esquire, whose soule God hath  
pdoned, who died the xxixth of Juli anno domini Mdxlxxi.

Arms: a chevron *ermine* between three escallops, the point charged with a crescent.

In the wall over this monument are some irons, which seem to have supported funereal trophies; and a helmet of painted wood, with a wreath thereon, is still preserved; as is also an old wooden frame, on which is cut the following inscription in capitals:—EX DONO JOHANNIS STOCKER, AR. 1658.

In the south-east corner of the aisle is a small mural monument of stone, inscribed, "Near this place lies interred the body of John Trethewy, of Treneage in Cornwall, and Ditchat in the county of Somerset, esq; who, during the reign of King Charles II. having discharged several considerable employments with great integrity, died about the year of our Lord 1671. And of Dorothy his sister, widow and relict of the Rev. James Tooker, of Bridiston in the county of Devon, clerk; and of Margaret his wife, daughter of Anthony Stocker, esq; and Margaret Capel. To whose memory this monument was erected at the charge of James Tooker, of Chilcompton, gent. in the year 1736."—Arms: *Sable*, a chevron engrailed between three goats statant *argent*.

On a pillar in the aisle is a small mural monument, with the following inscription: "Here lieth the body of Mary the wife of Benjamin Harington, gent. being second daughter of Anthony Stocker, esq; and Margaret Capel his wife; she died December 1649."—Arms: *Sable*, a fjet *argent* impaling three arrows barbed of the second. Crest: on a torse, a talbot's head proper.

And on the floor below:—"Here rests, in hope of a joyful resurrection, the body of Anthony Stocker, who died the 27th of Oct. 1757, aged 60 years; and also six of his children."

On the floor within the communion rails:—"Hic jacet corpus Joh̄s Tooker, de Norton-hall, gent. sepult. Obiit 15 Feb. 1714, ætat. suæ 50. Here lies the body of Bridget Tooker, wife of John Tooker, of Norton-hall in the county of Somerset, gent. daughter of Sir Francis Leeke, and Dame Frances his wife, of Newark-upon-Trent in the county of Nottingham, knt. and bart. Obiit July 29, 1712."

The arms cut on the stone are, Five bars wavy, over all a chevron gutté raguly between three sea-horses naiant, *Tooker*; impaling on a saltier engrailed nine annulets, *Leeke*. Crest defaced.

On the north wall is a black frame, with an inscription, importing that Mr. Henry Werret, of Shepton-Beauchamp in this county, gave the interest of 100l. *in perpetuum* to the binding out of poor children apprentices; or for want of such, to the poor of Chilcompton, anno 1681. On two old windows towards the southeast are some remains of painted glass, but imperfect.



In the church-yard is a very fine large ancient yew-tree, and many monumental stones, among which only the following extraordinary inscription merits notice:—  
 “Hic jacet Jacobus Tooker, armiger, inconcussæ fidei Jacobita. Obiit die 13 Sept. anno 1737, ætat. suæ 72.”

The annual number of christenings in this parish, taken on a ten years average, is ten, and of burials five.

## COMPTON-MARTIN

**I**S a large parish, lying under the east and northeast sides of Mendip, in a delightful woody vale. From the south side of the village, which is more than half a mile in length, consisting chiefly of one street, the hills rise, finely vested with wood, and very high and steep, the ridge being the top of Mendip. The principal part of the parish is pasture, on which are several large dairies. Near the church rises a spring, the source of the river Yow, which runs hence to Ubley, Blagdon, and Wrington, and falls into the sea near Wick-St.-Lawrence.

The manor of Compton, anciently written *Contone*, was given by William the Conqueror to Serlo de Burci, whose estates here we have the following account of:

“Serlo himself holds CONTONE. Euvacre held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is five carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and two servants, and five villanes, and six cottagers, and five bordars, with four ploughs. There are fifteen acres of meadow, and one mile of pasture in length, and two furlongs in breadth; wood eleven furlongs long, and nine furlongs broad. It was formerly worth one hundred shillings, now four pounds. Of this land Richard holds of Serlo one virgate and one furlong, and has there one plough, with two bordars, and five acres of meadow. It was formerly worth five shillings, now fifteen shillings.”

The family who gave this place its additional name, were of great eminence, and remote antiquity. The first of the appellation that appears upon record is Martin de Tours a Norman, who, making a conquest of the territory of Kemeys in the county of Pembroke, began the foundation of a monastery for Benedictine monks at St. Dogmael's within its precincts, and annexed it as a cell to the abbey of Tyrone in France;<sup>b</sup> this monastery Robert Fitz-Martin his son endowed with lands in the time of Henry I. He also gave the church of Blagdon to the monks of Stanley in the county of Wilts, and was a great benefactor to other monasteries.

To him succeeded another Robert, who 12 Hen. II. held three parts of a knight's fee of the Bishop of Bath,<sup>c</sup> and in the time of King John gave half a hide of land in Compton, and half a hide on Mendip, to the abbey of Goldcliff in Monmouthshire.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> Dugd. Bar. i. 729.

<sup>c</sup> Lib. nig. Scac.

William his son and heir married the daughter of Rhese ap Griffith, prince of South-Wales, from whom he received great injuries; for by force of arms he took from him his strong castle of Llanhever in Kemeys-Land, contrary to his oath and solemn promise of peace and friendship. In the time of Hen. II. this William Fitz-Martin was sent as a justice itinerant into the counties of Kent, Surrey, Middlesex, Berks, Oxford, Buckingham, and Bedford, to enquire into the conduct of the sheriffs, and other officers, and correct certain abuses complained of to the crown.

To him succeeded William his son and heir, who 11 Joh. gave three hundred marks for livery of his lands; he died 17th of the same reign, and was succeeded in his estates by Nicholas Fitz-Martin, his son and heir, whose wardship was granted first to Falk de Brent, and afterwards to Henry de Turberville.

This Nicholas Fitz-Martin, besides the manor of Compton, was possessed of the lordships of Blagdon, Hummer, West-Lydford, and Lovington, of which he died seized 10 Edw. I. He married Maud, daughter of Guy de Brien, by whom he had Sir Nicholas Martin, (who died in his father's life-time) Colinet, and Robert. Colinet Martin was father of another Sir Nicholas, who married Eleanor the daughter of Herbert Fitz-Peter, by whom he had Sir William Martin, who was summoned to parliament from 23 Edw. I. to 18 Edw. II. when he died, leaving issue, by Eleanor daughter of Sir William de Mohun, William his son and heir.

Which William was also a knight; but he lived not long after the death of his father, and Eleanor his sister, the wife of William de Columbers, and James the son of Nicholas de Audley, by Joan his other sister, divided his estates. But the name of Martin was still kept up by Robert Martin, a younger son of Nicholas Martin by the heiress of Guy de Brien, and from him are lineally descended the Martins of Seaborough, and those of Athelhampston in Dorsetshire.

Of this family of Martin the manor of Compton was long held by the family of Wake. The inquiries shew us that in the time of Edw. III. John Wake became possessed of this manor and advowson by seizure, on the following account: Alice the wife of Ralph de Wake, and mother of the said John, who held this manor in her demesne as of fee of William Martin, had been found guilty of felony in contriving the death of Ralph Wake her husband, for which she was tried and condemned to be burnt. Whereupon the premises being forfeited, Sir William Martin, as capital lord, seized the manor and advowson of Compton, entered on it as his escheat, and continued the seizure for seven years, till the said John Wake ejected him, but by what title was not known.<sup>f</sup>

This John Wake a little before his death feoffed Isabel the wife of John de Keynes, and others, of this manor with other lands and appertinances. Which Isabel died 33 Edw. III. seized of a third part of this manor, which she held of James de Audley, to whom Compton had been allotted in the division of the Martin estates. 34 Edw. III. John Wake held two parts of the manor, and 35 Edw. III. Thomas Keynes, son of Isabel above-mentioned, held that third. 7 Hen. V. John Keynes held at his death

<sup>f</sup> Some records say Philip.

<sup>f</sup> Esc. 22 Edw. III.



the manor of Compton-Martin, and one acre of arable land lying in the Over-Court close there, together with the advowson of the church, John Keynes his son and heir.<sup>1</sup> Of late years this manor has belonged to the Chandos family; but the present Duke of Chandos sold it about the year 1779 to John Heniker, esq; who is the present possessor.

*Moreton* is a tithing belonging to this parish, situated about two miles north, and has been a place of very considerable note. At the time of the Conquest it was one of the manors of Serlo de Burci, who held it in demesne:

“Serlo himself holds MORTONE. Three Thanes held it in the time of King Edward for three manors, and gelded for five hides. The arable is five carucates. Godric holds of this land two hides, and Elric two hides. In demesne are two carucates, and nine villanes, and eleven cottagers, with two ploughs. There is a mill of five shillings rent, and forty acres of meadow, and fifteen acres of wood. It was formerly and is now worth three pounds. Of the same land Richard holds three virgates, and Humphrey one virgate. There is one plough, and two villanes, and three cottagers, and eighteen acres of meadow, and four acres of wood, and two acres of pasture. It was heretofore and is still worth fifteen shillings.”<sup>2</sup>

This place anciently gave name to a family which flourished in these parts for a considerable time. 19 Edw. II. William Martin died seized of half a knight's fee in Moreton, which John de Morton held in demesne.<sup>3</sup> A branch of this family was also seated at Milbourn-St.-Andrew in Dorsetshire. The family de Sancta Cruce, or St. Cross, likewise possessed this manor for several descents, and resided here; for the record above quoted says that the same William Martin, lord of Compton-Martin, had half a knight's fee in Morton and Bychemestok, which Peter de Sancta Cruce and Robert Mushrom held in demesne.<sup>4</sup> 3 Ric. II. Matthew Gournay and Alice his wife held the manor of Moreton of the heir of William de Staunton, as of his manor of White-Staunton.<sup>5</sup> 15 Hen. VI. John Newburgh granted this manor to Robert Turges, William Turberville, and John Fitz-James.<sup>6</sup> By an inquisition taken at Brewton 7 Hen. VIII. it was found that Sir Christopher Wroughton, knt. possessed the manors of Moreton, Bawdrip, and Eiston, and that he enfeoffed Henry Longe, John Brook, and others, of the said premises, to have and to hold to them, their heirs and assigns for ever. Which enfeoffment the jurors said was made by covine and collusion, in order to defraud the King of the wardship and marriage of the said Christopher.<sup>7</sup> 24 Eliz. the manor was granted to the Earl of Hertford and his heirs male.<sup>8</sup> 39 Eliz. it belonged to Sir George Morton, knt. of Clenston in the county of Dorset, who seems to have been descended from the family de Morton, who were lords of this place in the time of Edw. II.<sup>9</sup> He died 8 Jac. I.

One mile to the north of Compton-Martin is an ancient mansion called *Bigfold* or *Bigfold*, which formerly gave name to a family. The same William Martin, of whom we have made so frequent mention, possessed half a knight's fee in Bykefold, which Roger de Bykefold held.<sup>10</sup> It now belongs to Mr. Bridges of Bristol.

<sup>1</sup> Efc.    <sup>2</sup> Lib. Domeſday.    <sup>3</sup> Lib. Feod.    <sup>4</sup> Ibid.    <sup>5</sup> Efc.    <sup>6</sup> Hutchins's Dorſetſhire, ii. 465.

<sup>7</sup> Inq. poſt mort. Chriſt. Wroughton, Mil.    <sup>8</sup> Ter. Sydenham.    <sup>9</sup> Ibid.    <sup>10</sup> Lib. feod.

The benefice of Compton, with its chapel, was in 1292 valued at fourteen marks.<sup>a</sup> It is a rectory in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster, in the patronage of the Duke of Chandos, and the Rev. Mr. Hoskins is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Michael, and is a handsome structure, consisting of a nave and two side aisles leaved. At the west end there is a good tower seventy feet high, containing six bells and a clock.

On the south side of the chancel is a mural stone monument, with the following inscription:—"Memoriæ Thomæ Symes, filii Caroli Symes, hujus parochiæ rectoris; cohortis præfecti sub Johanne Duce Marlborough, sese immiscuit in multis præliis, et non sine gloria militavit. Ejus reliquiæ juxta hunc locum depositæ sunt. Obijt Nov. 21, 1724, ætat. suæ 35. Etiam Annæ Christianæ Symes, uxoris charæ, quæ obijt Mar. 4, 1732, ætatis suæ 41. Etiam Ricardi Symes infantis, primogeniti filii. Hoc monumentum posuit ejus filius Thomas Symes."

On a stone in the chancel floor:—"Here lyeth the body of the Rev. Mr. William Symes, who departed this life the 18th of Sept. 1756, in the 66th year of his age."

On another stone in the same floor:—"Here lyeth the body of George Roynon, gent. the last of the house of Bigfold. He deceased Aug. 9, 1637, aged 79."

Mr. King of Moreton, at his death in 1776, left the interest of 100l. for establishing a school for teaching poor children, with a proviso that the parish would make it up 10l. per annum. In consequence of this a school has been established, and twelve poor children are taught.

The Duke of Chandos has added two guineas a year to this charity. Mr. Milner of Bristol, at his death in 1778, gave 20l. the interest of which is also added to this charity.

<sup>a</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

## E M B O R O W.

**T**HIS little parish is situated on elevated ground, under the north side of Mendip hills, in the turnpike-road from Bath to Wells, and five miles west from the latter city. It lies in the three several hundreds of Chewton, Whitstone, and Kilmerston, and is divided into the tithings of Emborow, Dolton, and Ashwick. The lands are in general light, and of less value than in some of the neighbouring parishes. The wood is mostly ash, elm, beech, and sycamore, which thrive well, particularly the two last-mentioned sorts, of which there are several trees of very large dimensions in a field adjoining to the court-house, the spread of one of the beeches being two hundred and seventy feet in circumference. Here were formerly mines of coal and lapis calaminaris, but of late the working them has been discontinued.

On



On the south side of the turnpike road, at the bottom of a steep declivity is a fine lake, called by the different names of Emborow and Leachmore pond, containing nearly ten acres. It lies in a vale extending almost east and west, with a beautiful plantation of firs, beeches, and sycamores, on the slopes of the hills on each side. On the eastern boundary is a small cottage, and a boat-house; at the west end is a marsh, and below that another lake much smaller. Pleasant winding walks are cut through the plantations, which belong to Henry Hippeley Coxe, of Stoneaston, esq; and that on the west side abounds with many curious ferns and mosses among the rocks.

The Romans seem to have been occupied in all these parts, and several of their silver coins have been dug up in plowing a field near the church.

The Saxons called this place *Amelberge*, a name which was continued by the Normans, when they came to the possession of this kingdom. It then belonged to the Bishop of Coutance:

“ Robert holds of the Bishop AMELBERGE. Two Thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is four carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and two servants, and six villanes, and four cottagers, with five ploughs. There are twenty-nine acres of meadow. It was worth twenty shillings, now seventy shillings.”

In the time of Edw. III. we learn from the inquisition that Simon de Trewithose held at his death jointly with Cecily the daughter of John Filiol, who survived him, this manor of Emborow, then written Emmeberghe. He also held two yardlands and a half, nine acres of meadow, and twenty shillings rent in Wells, Kilmerston, Penne, Watercome, and Corscombe, of William Tracy, by the service of five shillings per annum for all services. John de Trewithose was his son and heir of the age of forty years.<sup>b</sup> 23 Edw. III. the manor of Emenebere is set down among the knight's fees which belonged to Hugh le Dispencer deceased, and were held by him of the King in capite; and William Tracy is certified to hold one knight's fee in this manor under the said Hugh le Dispencer.<sup>c</sup> 17 Edw. IV. Sir John Botiler, knt. died seized of the manor of Eneburgh, and three messuages, one hundred acres of arable land, sixteen acres of meadow, and twenty acres of pasture in Walcombe and Penne, which he held of Henry Tracy, esq; by the service of the third part of a knight's fee; and in which he was succeeded by John Botiler his son and heir.<sup>d</sup> These Botilers, Botelers, or Butlers, (as the name is now written) were descended from Ralph, who in the time of Hen. I. was the *pincerna* or butler in the household of Robert Earl of Mellent and Leicester. The chief residence of the family was at Badminton in the county of Gloucester, now the seat of the Duke of Beaufort. By an inquisition taken at Brewton 17 June, 17 Hen. VIII. it was found that John Butler, of Badminton, esq; died 7 Jan. 15 Hen. VIII. seized of the manors of Enborough, Walton, Walcombe, and Penne, all holden of William Tracy, esq; but by what service was not known.<sup>e</sup> His son Ralph Butler died in his father's life-time, and Sir John Butler, son of Ralph, succeeded in the estates.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> Esc. 13 Edw. III.

<sup>c</sup> Lib. Feod.

<sup>d</sup> Esc.

<sup>e</sup> Inq. post mort. Johannis Butler, ar. 17 Hen. VIII.

This Sir John married Silvestra daughter of Sir Anselm Guise of Elmore, and died 5 Edw. VI. leaving a son William, who married Theophila, daughter of Sir John Newton. 13 Eliz. this manor was the property of John Hippeley, esq; from whom it has descended with the other lands to Henry Hippeley Coxe, esq; the present possessor. The court or manor-house adjoins the church-yard, and bears evident vestiges of antiquity.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Frome, and one of the four, whereof Chewton-Mendip is the mother church; the three others being Ston-Easton, Far-rington, and Paulton. The King is patron, and the Rev. Dr. Annesley the present incumbent. The great tithes belong to Robert Kingsmill, esq.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is a small edifice, consisting of a nave, chancel, and north aisle, covered with lead. The tower, which, though small, is very neat, stands between the chancel and the nave, and contains two bells.

On the south side of the chancel are two small mural monuments of stone, the first of which is inscribed,—"Under lyes the body of Elizabeth wife of John Hippeley, gent. who died October 14, 1703. And also the bodies of three of their children, John, Elizabeth, and John, who all died in the years 1700 and 1702." Arms: *Sable*, three mullets between two bendlets *or*, impaling three battle-axes *sable*.

On the second monument:—"Near this place lye the bodies of Mary and John, son and daughter of John Hippeley, gent. John died May 12 . . . . . Mary died March 4 . . . . .

On the north side of the chancel is a mural monument of black stone with this inscription:—"George the seventh son of John Hippeley, of Ston-Easton, esq; who died the 9th day of May 1725, aged 84. Catherine his wife, who died the 8th of April 1733, aged 84. John their eldest son, died Feb. 15, 1751, aged 82. And Mary his wife died the 2d of May 1761, aged 75."

On the north side of the aisle is a mural monument of stone, on which is this inscription:—"Underneath lies interred the body of Ann, daughter of Mr. Robert Hippeley of this parish by Margaret his wife; she died Nov. 8, 1726, aged eight years and eight months."

At the west end of the aisle are three old mural monuments of black stone.

On the first is this inscription:—"Near this place lieth the body of Mr. Edward Hippeley, senr. who died May 29, 1711, aged 65. Abigail his wife died the 27th of April, 1723. Also of Edward, Richard, and Christopher, three of their children."—Arms: Hippeley, impaling *gules*, in chief a talbot *sable* trippant, in base three tiger's heads erased *argent*.

On the second monument:—"Underneath lies the body of Mary the wife of Mr. Robert Hippeley, senr. She died March 4, 1714, aged 62. Also the body of Hannah Bendel, who died Feb. 12, 1731, aged 66. Robert Hippeley, son of Edward Hippeley, died Aug. 20, 1736, aged 85."



On the third monument:—"In memory of Mr. John Walter, who lies underneath interred. He died Aug. 24, 1730, aged 32. Christus mihi vita."

On a flat stone in the north aisle:—"Here lyeth the bodye of Tristram Lane, who dyed March 6, 1606. Elinor the wife of Tristram Lane, died Aug. 14, A. D. 1642. Also here resteth the body of Catherine Hippisley, widdow, daughter of Tristram Lane and Elinor his wife, who died April 26, 1666."

On another stone:—"Here lyeth the body of Theodore Hippisley, gent. who died June 11, 1704."

## FARRINGTON-GOURNAY,

SO called from its ancient lords, is a small parish, three miles from Chewton-Mendip, and in the turnpike-road from Wells to Bristol, from which it is distant thirteen miles. It contains about ninety houses, and four hundred and sixty inhabitants. The country here is closely wooded, and more on a level than most of the adjacent parishes. There is a coal-work here, belonging to Mr. Mogg, of High-Littleton, who owns the greatest part of the parish, and has two good houses therein.

The manor of *Ferentone*, or *Farrington*, was one of those many which the Conqueror gave to the Bishop of Coutances:

"Azelin holds of the Bishop, FERENTONE. Brismar held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is seven carucates. In demesne are three carucates, and four servants, and seven villanes, and seven cottagers, with four ploughs. There are one hundred acres of meadow. It was worth fifty shillings, now four pounds."

This Azelin, or Ascelin, who held the manor of the Bishop of Coutances, was the progenitor of the family of Percival, of whom notice has been taken in the account of Castle-Cary.<sup>b</sup> He died in 1120, 21 Hen. I. leaving several sons, of whom John, a younger son, obtained of his father during his life the manors of Farrington and Harptree for his inheritance; and from the latter place, which he generally inhabited, he adopted the surname of *de Harpetre*. This John was father of William de Harpetre, who 12 Hen. II. upon the aid levied for marrying the King's daughter, certified that he held thirteen knight's fees and one half, and the fourth part of one knight's fee; and that he gave half of one knight's fee to Robert de Ferenton.<sup>c</sup> To whom succeeded John de Harpetre his son and heir, baron of Harptree, of whom we find little mention in history, save that he was father of two sons, William de Harpetre, baron of Harptree,

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domeſday.

<sup>b</sup> See page 52 of this vol.

<sup>c</sup> Lib. Rub. Scaccarii.

and John, who died without issue. William succeeded to the estates, and 22 Hen. II. paid a fine of one hundred pounds for trespassing in the King's forests in Dorsetshire,<sup>d</sup> and 6 Ric. I. gave one hundred marks to make his peace with that King, so that he might repofset his lands lying in the counties of Dorset, Somerset, Gloucester, and Devon.<sup>e</sup> This William married Maud Orescuilz, or Orcas, a Norman lady, who was a coheirefs with Alice Orescuilz her sister, and made partition of her inheritance by fine 10 Ric. I.<sup>f</sup> whereupon the said William obtained half a knight's fee with its appertenances in Sharncot in the county of Wilts. He died 16 Hen. III. leaving issue Thomas de Harpetre, Pagan, and William. Thomas the eldest son married Eva de Gorniac, or Gournay, sister and heir of Maurice de Berkely, (otherwise furnamed de Gaunt) and daughter of Robert, son of Robert Fitzharding, by Alice the daughter and heir of Robert de Gaunt of Folkingham, brother and at length heir of Gilbert de Gaunt, Earl of Lincoln; which Eva, wife of the said Thomas de Harpetre, was thus heir of the great houses of Fitzharding, Gournay, Gaunt, and Paganel. Their issue was Robert de Harpetre, lord of Harptree, Farrington, Ingliscombe, and Overweare. This Robert assumed the name of Gournay from his mother, and under that title 41 Hen. III. had summons to be in Bristol, in the octaves of St. Peter ad vincula, well fitted with horse and arms, to march into Wales. He was also summoned to other places of rendezvous for a similar purpose. For his acts of charity, he was founder of the hospital of Gaunt, alias Billefwicke, near Bristol, for the health of his own soul, and for the soul of Maurice de Gaunt his uncle;<sup>g</sup> and died 53 Hen. III. leaving issue, by Hawisa de Longchamp his wife, Anselm de Gournay, lord of Farrington, East and West Harptree, &c.<sup>h</sup> and John de Gournay, lord of Overweare and Netherweare in this county. Which Anselm having done his homage for his father's estate soon after his decease,<sup>i</sup> was returned by the jury of Winterstoke hundred to hold of the King in capite, the manor of East-Harptree, by the half of one knight's fee, on which depended the manor of West-Harptree.<sup>k</sup> He married Sibilla, daughter of Hugh de Vivoun, by whom he had issue three sons, John, Robert, and Thomas de Gournay, to the last of whom, being the youngest son, and unprovided for, he granted by deed 13 Edw. I. this manor of Farrington, to be held to him and the heirs of his body for ever, by the annual service of a rose, to be paid upon the feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist.<sup>l</sup> And in the year following he granted the manor of Ingliscombe to the said Thomas his son, under the service of twelve cross-bow shot.<sup>m</sup> He died the same year, and the next after John de Gournay did his fealty, and had livery of his lands.<sup>n</sup> This John, who was a baron, married Oliva, daughter of Henry Lovel, baron of Castle-Cary, by whom he had one only daughter and heir, viz. Elizabeth de Gournay, who, though but sixteen years old at her father's death, was then married to John ap-Adam; and he doing his fealty, had livery of all the lands of her inheritance, which was afterwards profusely squandered away.

<sup>d</sup> Rot. Pip. 22 Hen. II.      <sup>e</sup> Rot. Pip. 6 Ric. I.      <sup>f</sup> Fin. lev. ap. Winchester, 10 Ric. I.

<sup>g</sup> Tanner's Notitia Monastica.

<sup>h</sup> Esc. 53 Hen. III.

<sup>i</sup> Fin. 53 Hen. III.

<sup>k</sup> Inq. in бага de Ragman. 4 Edw. I. Somf. rot. 12.

<sup>l</sup> Esc. 13 Edw. I.

<sup>m</sup> Cart. antiq.

<sup>n</sup> Rot. Fin. 15 Edw. I. m. 7.



The elder branch of this family being entirely extinct, we come next to Thomas de Gournay, the first of that name, youngest son of Anselm de Gournay and Sibilla de Vivoun his wife, lord of Farrington, Inglishcombe, and West-Harptree. But of him all that is recorded is, that he was in the wars of Scotland 28 Edw. I. and that he was father of Thomas de Gournay, the second of that name, who succeeded to the manors of Farrington, Inglishcombe, and West-Harptree. This Sir Thomas de Gournay was one of those who had the custody of that unhappy prince King Edward II. after he had been deposed by the contrivances of Isabella his queen, and Roger Mortimer earl of March; and having consequently been accessary to his murder in Berkeley-Castle, was obliged on the change of times to fly into foreign parts. But a price being set on his head, he was seized at Burges in Spain, and commanded by Edw. III. to be brought over into England, notwithstanding which order, by some secret practices or other, his execution was performed privately at sea; and on account of his treasonable manœuvres all his estates in England were confiscated, and became vested in the King's hands, who annexed them to the dutchy of Cornwall for ever, and at this day the manors of Farrington-Gournay, West-Harptree, Inglishcombe, Widcombe, Curry-Malet, Shepton-Malet, Stoke-under-Hamden, Midsummer-Norton, Stratton-on-the-Foss, Laverton, Milton-Falconbridge in the parish of Martock, (all parcel of the Gournay estates) belong to the Prince of Wales, as Duke of Cornwall.

Notwithstanding the decree of King Edw. III. though absolute in itself, it is evident that favour was shewn to the children of this Thomas de Gournay, who was thus attainted. These were, Thomas de Gournay, the third of that name; John de Gournay, of Knolle in Bedminster; George de Gournay, who died without issue; and Sir Matthew de Gournay, a famous knight, and a person of most consummate skill and reputation: having dedicated himself to the use of arms, he was present in all the memorable engagements of the age he lived in, being recorded on his monument at Stoke-under-Hamden,\* where he was buried, to have served in the battles of Benamazin, Sluice, Cressy, Ingenny, Poitiers, Nazaron in Spain, and in the siege of Algezira, against the Saracens. He married two wives, 1. Alice, sister of Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, and relict of Sir John Beauchamp of Hatch. To his second wife he married Philippa, sister and coheir of John Lord Talbot. This Matthew de Gournay died without issue at the age of ninety-six, in the sixth year of Henry IV. A. D. 1405. Thomas de Gournay his brother, the third of that name, and after him his son Thomas de Gournay the fourth, possessed, under the royal grant, the manors of Farrington, Inglishcombe, and West-Harptree, with all or most of the other estates, which, their issue failing, the above-mentioned Matthew de Gournay, who was the last of the Gournays of this line, succeeded to, and after his decease they reverted to the crown.

The living of Farrington is a vicarage in the deanery of Frome, and being annexed to Chewton, the Rev. Dr. Annesley is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, is a small building, surrounded with elm trees, twice the height of the tower, which entirely exclude it from view. It consists of a single aisle; the tower at the west end.

\* See Stoke-under-Hamden, in Tintinhull hundred.

Over the communion-table an old stone monument commemorates Henry Hole, gent. who died Jan. 16, 1708; and Mary his wife, who died April 23, 1689, as also three of their children.

On the north side of the nave is a small mural monument of grey and white marble, inscribed to the memory of John Mogg, esq; who died March 4, 1728, aged 78 years; as also of Dorothy his wife, and Richard their son.

At the west end of the tower is the effigies in stone of Thomas de Gournay, the third of that name, lord of this manor, who lived in the time of King Edward the third.

According to the register, the christenings in this parish are ten annually, and the burials four, on a seven years average.

## W E S T - H A R P T R E E.

A LARGE and neat village, situated under the north side of Mendip, in a valley well wooded, and watered by a rivulet, which issuing from a spring near the street, called *Pilefwell*, runs hence to Chew-Magna. It consists of about forty houses, eleven of which are farms, the rest chiefly cottages. There is a hamlet belonging to the parish, called *DOWN-EDGE*, about a mile westward from the church, and consisting of eight houses.

There are two manors within this parish, distinguished by the names of *West-Harptree-Gournay*, and *West-Harptree-Tilly*. The former belonged at the Conquest to the Bishop of Coutances, and is thus particularized in the Norman Record:

“Azelin holds of the Bishop, *HERPETREV*. Edui held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is four carucates. In demesne is half a carucate, and seven villanes, and four bordars, and five cottagers, with three ploughs. There is a mill of five shillings rent, and fifty-eight acres of meadow, and forty-two acres of wood. Pasture one mile long, and half a mile broad. It was and is worth forty shillings.”

Who this tenant of the name of Azelin was, has been seen in the account of Farrington-Gournay, and there being no variation in the descent of this manor from that, save that the one was held of the Lovels of Castle-Cary, and the other of the Gournays of East-Harptree, the reader is referred to the foregoing pages for an account of its possessors, the present one being the Prince of Wales, as Duke of Cornwall.

The other manor was the land of Walter de Dowai, and is thus surveyed:

“Ralph holds of Walter, *HARPETREV*. Eluvacre held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is four carucates. In demesne is one caru-



"cate, and two servants, and five villanes, and two cottagers with two ploughs. There  
"is a mill of five shillings rent, and fifty-eight acres of meadow, and sixty-two acres of  
"wood. Pasture one mile in length and breadth. It was and is worth forty shillings."<sup>b</sup>

The family of Tyllly or Tilly, who afterwards possessed this manor, was very ancient.  
6 Ric. I. Henry de Tilli paid fourteen pounds fifteen shillings as scutage for the King's  
ransom.<sup>c</sup> To him succeeded John Tyllly, who gave to the abbot and convent of  
Bruerne in the county of Oxford one messuage, and one yardland and a half, in his  
manor of West-Harptree-Tyllly, in the time of Henry III. John Tyllly, his son and  
heir, was lord of this manor 16 Edw. I.<sup>d</sup> To whom succeeded a second John, and to  
him Richard Tyllly, whose son and heir William in the time of Edward III. was a  
benefactor to Glastonbury-Abbey, granting to the abbot and convent thereof one mes-  
suage, one hundred and ten acres of arable land, seven acres of meadow, five acres of  
pasture, and five acres of wood, in Ashcot, Greinton, and Walton.<sup>e</sup> This William had  
lands at the Barton, near Bristol, and one hundred shillings rent in that city, which he  
held of the King in burgage.<sup>f</sup> The next of this name that occurs is John Tilly, whose  
heir is set down 23 Edw. III. as holding the fourth part of a knight's fee in Portishead,  
and likewise the fourth part of a fee in Copeneden of Hugh le Dispenser.<sup>g</sup> 10 Hen. IV.  
Richard Tilly held the vill of Hogshole upon Quantock.<sup>h</sup> To which Richard suc-  
ceeded Walter Tilly, who was lord of Salty or Salthay, in this county.<sup>i</sup> By his wife  
Joan, he was father of Lionel Tilly, lord of Salthay 13 Hen. VI.<sup>k</sup>

16 Edw. IV. Walter Rodney, the son of Sir Walter Rodney, knt. released to William  
Raynon or Roynon, esq; all his right in the lands and tenements in West-Harptree-  
Tilly, which the said William Raynon had some time before of the grant of Thomas  
Bayoufe.<sup>l</sup>

35 Hen. VIII. this manor being in the crown, was granted to John Lord Ruffel,<sup>m</sup>  
who the same year had licence to alienate it to John Buckland. 27 Eliz. Thomas  
Buckland was lord of this manor.<sup>n</sup> Of this ancient family was Ralph Buckland, a  
celebrated Puritan in the time of James I. After studying in London the municipal  
laws for some time, he in 1579 became a commoner of Magdalen college in Oxford,  
whence, by the instigation of some Roman-Catholick priest, he went forthwith to  
the English college at Rheimes, where, and at Rome, he spent seven years in the  
study of philosophy and divinity. He afterwards was made a priest, and returning to  
his own country, spent above twenty years in the offices of his profession, during which  
time he wrote and published several books in his own way, as "Seven Sparks of the  
Enkindled Soul." "Four Lamentations, which, composed in the hard times of Queen  
Elizabeth, may be used at all times when the Church happeneth to be extreemly per-  
secuted." It was thought, from some sentences contained in these little books, which  
are drawn out of the Holy Scriptures after the form of Psalms, that the author paid  
some little attention to the Gunpowder affair in 1605, which it is generally believed  
was concerted abroad some years before its discovery. Buckland also wrote, "An

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>c</sup> Rot. pip. 6 Ric. I.

<sup>d</sup> Inq. ad quod damnum. 19 Edw. I.

<sup>e</sup> Ibid. 6 Edw. III.

<sup>f</sup> Esc.

<sup>g</sup> Lib. Feod.

<sup>h</sup> Esc.

<sup>i</sup> Ibid.

<sup>k</sup> Ibid.

<sup>l</sup> Rot. claus. 16 Edw. IV.

<sup>m</sup> Ter. Sydenham.

<sup>n</sup> Ibid.

Ambassage from Heaven, wherein our Lord Christ giveth to understand his indignation against all such as being catholickly minded, dare yield their presence to the rites and public prayers of the malignant church." He likewise translated into English a book entitled *De Persecutione Vandelica*, written by Victor bishop of Benserte in Africa; and the six volumes of Surius *De Vitis Sanctorum*. He died in 1611, leaving behind him among the brethren, the character of a most pious and scrupulous person, a person who went beyond all of his time for fervent devotion.<sup>o</sup> The old mansion-house, wherein the Bucklands inhabited, stands opposite the south side of the church, and over-against it is another ancient house, the property of Goodenough Earl, esq; who inherits the manor of West-Harptree-Tilly. On one side of the porch are the arms of Buckland, viz. Three lions rampant, on a canton dexter a fret. On the other side, two chevrons between three roses. The arms of Tilly, as they were borne in the time of Henry VI. were, a fesse bendy counter-bendy, in chief three fleurs de lis.

The church of West-Harptree, valued in 1292 at thirteen marks,<sup>p</sup> is a prebend in the cathedral of Wells. 11 Edw. III. Sir Walter de Rodney, knt. in commiseration of the poverty of the canons of Keynsham, granted to them the right of patronage of this church,<sup>q</sup> which the Bishop appropriated to them in 1337, ordaining the vicar hereof to take possession of the rectorial houses with garden and curtilage, and to receive all kinds of tithes, oblations, obventions, and profits whatsoever, belonging to the said church, excepting from the arable land, meadow, and wood of the glebe of the church, and common, as well in the wood of Lady Joan de Gournay, as in other places and pastures appropriated to the feeding the cattle of the convent.<sup>r</sup> A new ordination of this vicarage was made in 1344, whereby it was appointed, that it being judged more convenient and expedient for the vicar to have a house separate from the parsonage-house, and nearer to the church, the said vicar should have all the manse belonging to the church, situated opposite the parsonage gate, with competent curtilage, and a close adjoining thereto, with a hall, and two sitting rooms, and two cellars; one of the rooms with a cellar at the hither end of the hall, and the other room with the cellar at the further end of the hall, as also a kitchen, granary, stable for three horses, and a pigeon-house; to be built within six months, at the charge and expence of the abbot and convent of Keynsham; but the vicar to stand to repairs as often as found needful. The vicar was likewise to have five acres of arable land, and two acres of meadow, contiguous to the said house and tenement, with all its appertinances, viz. free commonage of pasture for all sorts of beasts at all times of the year, in the champion, on the hill, and in all the common pastures of the village of West-Harptree; with the privilege of cutting heath upon Mendip, as much and as often as he pleased. In consideration of which perquisites, two quarters of wheat, two of oats, two of barley, and three loads of hay, were to be deducted from the first ordination, and all other matters contained therein to stand as appointed. But if the house should not be built within the time above specified, or the vicar should not obtain the said house and lands, the first ordination to remain in full force. Dated at Wivelscombe 5 kal. Dec. 1344.<sup>s</sup>

<sup>o</sup> Wood's *Athenæ Oxonienses*, i. 374, 375.

<sup>p</sup> *Taxat. Spiritual.*

<sup>q</sup> Pat. 11 Edw. III. p. i. m. 35.

<sup>r</sup> Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

<sup>s</sup> Ibid.



The living is a vicarage in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster. The King is patron, and the Rev. Mr. Haines is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and consists of a nave, chancel, and aisle on the south side, all covered with lead. At the west end is a small tower, containing five bells and a clock, and is surmounted by a spire leaded.

On the north wall of the chancel is a small plain stone monument with this inscription:—"Under this tombe are inclosed the bodys of John Buckland of this parish, gent. sonn of Charles Buckland and Bridget his wife, late of Lewes in Suffex, gent. He departed this life July 17. And also Bridget, the daughter of the said John Buckland, who departed this life Jan. 17, both in the year 1696."

On the south wall of the chancel:—"Under this tombe is inclosed Bridget the daughter of John Reliffe, of Ashburnham in the county of Suffex, esq; and granddaughter of Sir George Farewell, of Hill-Bishops in this county; late wife of Charles Buckland, of this parish, gent. She departed this life April the 8th, 1698, aged 58."

At the east end of the south aisle is a handsome mural monument of stone, and on the tablet this inscription:—"Hic juxta jacent Henrietta, uxor Willielmi Earle, arm. filia Smart Goodenough, arm. de Barton prope Taunton; nata 6 Martij, anno 1676, denata 31 Januarij 1703. - Robertus Earle, gent. filius natu tertius Willielmi Earle, arm. natus 22 Januarij; denatus 7 Februarij, 1703. Willielmus Hall Earle, gen. filius natu secundus Willielmi Earle, servient. ad legem, natus 6 Julij, 1700; denatus 28 Julij, 1721. Willielmus Earle, serviens ad legem, filius natu quartus, Tho. Earle, equitis aurati de Crudwell in agro Wilton, obiit 10 die Martij, anno ætatis 78, Dom. 39."

On the north side of the chancel is a mural monument of stone with this inscription: "In the middle of this chancel lyeth interred Ann, daughter of John Brickdale, esq; who departed this life the 30th of April 1748, aged 32. And Ann, the wife of the said John Brickdale, died the 15th of Feb. 1748, aged 56. Also John Freke Brickdale, esq; son of the said John Brickdale, who died June 4, 1765, aged 47. Likewise the said John Brickdale, esq; who died Oct. 25, 1766, aged 90."

Matthew Brickdale, esq; is impropiator of the great tithes of West-Harptree.

Mrs. Mary Buckland, by her will, gave a close in the parish of Backwell, called Cockwell-Croft, to the use of the poor of this parish, to bind out a poor child apprentice. 1672.

John Buckland, esq; by a codicil annexed to his will, dated 23d of April 1675, devised two closes in this parish, called Clofwell and Syms-Close, to the use of the poor of this parish for ever. 1678.

John Plummer of this parish, yeoman, by his will Sept. 24, 1725, devised a copyhold tenement lying in this parish; the one half to the use of the poor of this parish, and the other half to the use of the poor of Priddy. He died 1736, aged 88.

William

William Earle, serjeant at law, by his will dated the 17th of May 1739, gave 50l. to this parish; the interest thereof at four per cent. to be for ever applied to the use of the poor.

By the register it appears, that on a seven years' average, the births have been seven, the burials five annually.

In the church-yard are ten of the finest yew-trees perhaps in the kingdom. They are clipt into cones, and the diameter of the largest is at the bottom thirty-six feet, the height forty; the body of the tree thirteen feet round.

Of this church Dr. James Dugdale (a descendant of Sir William Dugdale) was prebendary in the great rebellion in 1642, and was much persecuted for his loyalty. He lived to see the Restoration.

### HINTON-BLEWET, alias COLD-HINTON,

**I**S a small parish, five miles southward from Chew-Magna, situated on high ground in a pleasant well-wooded country. A small stream rising in one of the neighbouring hills, runs through this parish, turning two mills, and joins the little river at Radstock. The Rev. Mr. Brookes has a neat house and garden near the church; another on the green is the property of Mr. Hutchinson of Bath, who has a considerable farm here, and an old stable which has from time immemorial been called Abbot's Barn, from which some have been induced to think it is the remains of some religious foundation; but we have no account of it in the monastick books.

The name of this place in British signifies the Old Town; it is called in *Domesday Book* *Hantone*, and thus described:

"Ralph holds of William [de Ow] HANTONE. In the time of King Edward it "gelded for eight hides. The arable is six carucates and a half. In demesne are two "carucates and a half, and four servants, and seven villanes, and three bordars, and "four cottagers, with three ploughs. There is a mill of four shillings rent, and sixty "acres of meadow. A wood one mile long, and one furlong broad. It was worth "six pounds, now one hundred shillings. Of this land Hugh holds of William half a "hide. It was always worth three shillings."

In the time of Edw. II. lived John Bluet,<sup>b</sup> and in that of Edw. III. Ralph Bluet is certified to hold one knight's fee in Hinton of Hugh le Dispenser.<sup>c</sup> After him came several of the name of John,<sup>d</sup> who possessed this and divers other lands in this county and Dorset. 5 Hen. V. Sir Thomas Broke, knt. held at his death this manor and the advowson of the church, together with the manor of Stoneaston, of Lord le Dispenser.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. *Domesday*.

<sup>b</sup> *Efc.*

<sup>c</sup> Lib. *Feod.* 23 Edw. III.

<sup>d</sup> *Efc.* Hen. IV.



Thomas Broke his son and heir of the age of twenty-six years.\* The Chedders had before this some property in the place. Joan the wife of the said Thomas Broke had this manor in dower, and died seized of it 15 Hen. VI. leaving Thomas Chedder her heir.<sup>†</sup> The family of Bluet or Blewet, had possession here so late as 38 Hen. VIII.<sup>‡</sup> Of late years the manor was the property of the Stockers of Chilcompton, and by them was sold to Mr. William James of East-Harptree, who now possesses it.

SOUTH-WIDCOMBE is a hamlet belonging to this parish.

The living of Hinton-Blewet is a rectory in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster. The Rev. Mr. Brookes is patron and incumbent.

The church is dedicated to All-Saints, and consists of a nave, chancel, and north aisle. At the west end is a neat tower lately rebuilt.

On a large black stone in the middle passage, is the following inscription:—"Sub hoc lapide jacent cineres Elizabethæ, Joannis Hunt conjugis desideratissimæ, filiæque Gulielmi James, gen. de Widcombe, hujus parochiæ vico; una cum duobus liberis, qui in tenera ætate vita decesserunt. Obijt 18 Martii, 1772; ætatis 42."

The abbot of Keynsham received annually twenty-five shillings out of this rectory.<sup>§</sup>

According to the parochial register, the christenings here are on an average eight, the burials five.

\* Efc.

† Ibid.

‡ Ter. Sydenham.

§ Tazat. Temporal.

## HIGH-LITTLETON,

**A** Parish so called to distinguish it from another of a similar appellation, is situated on the lower road from Bath to Wells, from each of which cities it is ten miles distant. Including the large and ancient hamlet of HALLATROW, it contains about seventy houses, and four hundred inhabitants.

In this parish is a very large coal-work belonging to Mr. Mogg, in which great quantities of fine coals are raised, and sold at the pit's mouth for three-pence a bushel.

Mr. Strachey has given us the following observations on the strata in coal-mines in this part of the country:<sup>a</sup>

"For discovery of coals, they first search for the *crop*, which is really coal, though very friable and weak, and sometimes appears to the day, as they term it; or else for the *dig*, which is dark or blackish rock, and always keeps its regular course, as the coal does, lying obliquely over it. For all coal lies shelving, like the tile of a house, not perpendicular nor horizontal, unless it be broken by a ridge, which is a parting of

<sup>a</sup> Philosoph. Trans. No. 360, p. 968.

clay, stone, or rubble; as if the veins by some violent shock were disjointed or broken, so as to let in rubble, &c. between them. The obliquity, or *pitch* as they term it, in all the works about Mendip hills, is about twenty-two inches in a fathom; and when it rises to the land, is called the *crop*, but in the North *basseting*. In the works near Stowey, and likewise at Farrington, it riseth to the north-west, and pitcheth to the south-east; but the farther they work to the south-west the pitch inclines to the south, and *è contra* when they work towards the north-east. So likewise they observe, as they work to the south-west, when they meet with a ridge it causeth the coal to *trap up*, that is, being cut off by the ridge, they find it over their heads when they are through the ridge; but on the contrary, when they work through a ridge to the north-east, they say it *traps down*, that is, they find it under their feet.

“Coal is generally dug in valleys or low grounds. The surface in these parts is mostly a red soil, which under the first or second spit degenerates into malm or loam, and often yields a rock of reddish *fire-stone*, till you come to four, five, and many times to twelve or fourteen fathom depth, when by degrees it changeth to a grey, then to a dark or blackish rock, which they call the coal clives. These always lie shelving and regular as the coal doth; but in these parts they never meet with free-stone over the coal, as at Newcastle, and in Staffordshire. These clives vary much in hardness, in some places being little harder than malm or loam, in others so hard that they are forced to split them with gunpowder. So likewise in colour; the top inclining to red or grey, but the nearer to coal the blacker they grow; and wherever they meet with them, are sure to find coal under them; but they are not always worth digging.

“The first or uppermost vein at Sutton is called the *Stinking Vein*; it is hard coal fit for mechanick uses, but of a sulphureous smell. About five fathom and half (seldom more than seven fathoms) under this lies another vein, which, from certain lumps of stone mixed with it like a caput mortuum, not inflammable, called *Cat's-head*, they call the *Cat-head Vein*.

“About the same depth under this again lies the *Three-Coal Vein*, so called because it is divided into three different coals; between the first and second coal is a stone of a foot (and in some places two feet) thick; but the middle and third coal seem placed loose on each other, without any separation of a different matter. These three veins before-mentioned are sometimes worked in the same pit; but the next vein which I am going to mention is generally wrought in a separate pit, for though it lie the like depth under the other, the cliff between them is hard and subject to water.

“Next under the Three-Coal Vein is the *Pearw Vein*, so denominated because the coal is figured with eyes resembling a peacock's tail gilt with gold, which bird in this country dialect is called a *Pearw*. The cliff also over this vein is variegated with cockle-shells and fern branches; and these are always an indication of this vein, which is always searched for about fifteen fathom to the north-west of the former.

“Under this again, between five and six fathom, lies the *Smith's-Coal Vein*, about a yard thick; and near the same depth under that, the *Shelly Vein*; and under that, a vein of ten inches thick, which, being little valued, has not been wrought to any purpose.



purpose. Some say there is also another under the last, but that has not been proved within the memory of man.

“At Farrington they have the same veins, which, as I am informed, agree in all parts with those of Bishop’s-Sutton before mentioned; but as Farrington lies four miles south-east from Bishop’s-Sutton, so in the regular course they would lie a mile and a third deeper than those at Sutton. But as in fact they are dug near the same depth, it follows there must be a *trap* or several *traps down*, which in all must amount to that depth between the said works.

“Between Farrington and High-Littleton, the same veins seem to retain their regular course, but at Littleton their undermost and deepest vein is the best coal, which at Farrington proves small.

“On the other hand, in the parish of Stanton-Drew, to the north-east of Sutton coal-works, about a mile distant, and in the true course with those at Sutton, the same veins are found again; but here they wind a little, and their course or drift runs almost north, and they dip to the east. This winding is attributed to ridges, which the workmen have met with on both sides, and have discontinued their working that way. At Stanton they have little of the red earth or malm on the surface, but come immediately to an iron grit or grey tile-stone, which is a forerunner of the coal-clives; in all other matters they agree with the works near Stowey.

“In the same parish of Stanton-Drew, a little to the eastward, they have another coal-work, but the veins are in all respects different from the former. Their drift or course is to the eleven o’clock sun, as they term it; they *pitch* to the five o’clock morning, and rise to land consequently to the five o’clock evening sun. They have several veins, but as yet only three are thought worth working. The uppermost, about three feet thick, is small *lime-coal*; the next is about three fathom under it, but two feet and a half thick, fit for culinary uses; the undermost is about the like depth under the former, only ten inches thick, but good hard coal.

“At Clutton, about two miles from these latter, in the same drift, viz. nearly S. E. and by S. these last veins appear again. The surface here is red, and so continues to ten, and sometimes to fourteen fathom, and in other respects agree with the last-mentioned works at Stanton-Drew.

“At Burnet, Queen’s-Charlton, and Brisleton, they have four veins, which pitch nearly to the north, and consequently the drift lies almost east and west. The surface is red land, generally to the depth of four or five fathom. The uppermost is from three to six feet thick at Brisleton, but less at Charlton and Burnet. The next, called *Pot-Vein*, is six fathom under the former, eighteen inches thick, all hard coal. 3dly. The *Trench Vein*, seven fathom under the other, which is from two feet and half to three feet thick, all solid coal. 4thly. *Rock Vein*, always distinguished by a rock of paving stone called *penant* lying over it; which rock is sometimes twenty feet thick, or more, and therefore this vein is never wrought in the same pit with the former vein, but about two hundred yards more to the south, or *to land* as they term it. It is computed seven fathom under the former.

"This is all I can say in relation to the different veins of coal and earth in the coal-works in these parts, wherein all agree in the oblique situation of the veins; and every vein has its cliff or clives rising over it, in the same oblique manner. All of them pitch or rise about twenty-two inches in a fathom; and almost all have the same strata of earth, malm, and rock over them, but differ in respect to their course and drift, as also in thickness, goodness, and use.

"Now as coal is here generally dug in vallies, so the hills which interfere between the several works before-mentioned seem also to observe a regular course in the strata of stone and earth found in their bowels; for in these hills (I mean those only that are dispersed among the coal-works before-mentioned) we find on the summits a stony arable mixed with a spongy yellowish earth and clay, under which are quarries of lias in several beds to the depth of eight or ten feet; and six feet under that, through yellowish loam, there is a blue clay, inclinable to marl, which is about a yard thick. Under this is another yard of whitish loam, and then a deep blue marl, soft, fat, and soapy, six feet thick, only at about two feet thick it is parted by a marcasite about six inches thick. These beds of stone and marl, different from coal, lie all horizontal."

The manors of *Hallatrow* and *Littleton* are found in the long list of those which belonged at the Conquest to the Bishop of Coutances, and are thus surveyed together in the Norman record:

"Roger holds of the Bishop, HELGETREY. Four thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides wanting half a virgate of land. The arable is six carucates. In demesne is one carucate and a half, and four villanes, and three bordars, and three cottagers, with two ploughs. There are twenty-seven acres of meadow, and thirty-three acres of pasture. It was and is worth sixty shillings."

"Ralph holds of the Bishop, LITELTONE. Alwod held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is five carucates. In demesne are two carucates, with one servant, and four villanes, and six cottagers, with three ploughs. There is a mill of fifty pence rent, and thirty-two acres of meadow, and sixty-six acres of pasture. In Bath one burghers pays fifteen-pence. It was and is worth sixty shillings."

The manors of *Hallatrow* and *Littleton* composed part of the estate of the family of Gournay in the times of Hen. III. and Edw. I. but afterwards were annexed to the honour of Gloucester. In the reign of Edw. II. John le Sore, of Backwell, held these hamlets of Gilbert de Clare Earl of Gloucester, by the service of one knight's fee;<sup>c</sup> and in the succeeding reign of Edw. III. Walter de Rodney held the same; to whom succeeded Richard de Rodney.<sup>d</sup> 49 Edw. III. the abbot of Keynsham monastery, founded by William Earl of Gloucester A. D. 1170, Sir Walter Romefey, knt. and Maud Bassett, were certified to hold 'a knight's fee in the hamlets of Hallatrow and Littleton.'<sup>e</sup> The lands which Keynsham abbey possessed here, continued in that monastery till its dissolution, and the manor now belongs partly to Jacob Mogg, esq; and partly to William Gore Langton, of Newton-St.-Loe, esq.

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>c</sup> Lib. Feod. 7 Edward II.

<sup>d</sup> Esc.

<sup>e</sup> Lib. Feod.



The church of High-Littleton was appropriated to the abbey of Koyntsham in 1324; the name of the abbot then presiding was Nicholas.\*

The living is a vicarage in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster. The King is patron, and the Rev. Thomas Mogg is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and is a small but very handsome structure, rebuilt in 1735, consisting of a nave, chancel, and small aisle on the south side, and a tower at the west end containing three bells.

There is an old stone mural monument on the north side of the chancel, inscribed as follows:—"Here lyeth John Hodges, buried May 2, 1584. Also his son Thomas Hodges, buried Oct. 15, 1619. And Thomas Hodges, son of the above-said Thomas Hodges, buried April 13, 1616. And Thomas Hodges, son of the second Thomas, buried March 1, 1686; and his wife Joan Hodges. Also here lyeth Thomas Hodges, son of Thomas and Joan Hodges, buried Dec. 26, 1692; George buried June 28, 1694; and Joan, buried June 26, 1694; sons and daughter of the last Thomas Hodges."

The average christenings in this parish are twenty-six, and the burials twelve, annually.

\* Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

## M I D S U M M E R - N O R T O N,

Alias NORTON-CANONICORUM, or NORTON-FRIARS.

**A** Parish situated ten miles northeast from Wells, nine west from Bath, and fourteen south from Bristol. It is of large extent, being seven miles in length, from Nettlebridge to Rodford-Bridge near Camerton; and contains about two hundred and ninety houses, and upwards of fifteen hundred inhabitants, including the three following hamlets:

1. WELTON, situated northeastward.
2. CLAPTON, northwestward.
3. DOWNSIDE, near Chilcompton, southwest.

The church and principal part of the parish lies in a woody vale, screened from the north by a ridge of high lands, and watered by a pleasant stream. The lands are inclosed, and divided between pasture and tillage; some of the meadow is very rich, and considerable part of the arable has been improved by marl. There are two coal-works in the parish, in which many of the poor are employed. These coals are sold at four-pence a bushel at the pit's mouth. A fair for cattle, pigs, and pedlary-ware, is held here on the 25th of April.

This

This was another of the Bishop of Coutances manors, and held of him by Ulveva :

“ Ulveva holds of the Bishop NORTONE. Alwold held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is eight carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and three servants, and five villanes, and eleven cottagers, with three ploughs. There is a mill of forty pence rent, and thirty-four acres of meadow, and six acres of coppice-wood, and one mile of wood in length, and as much in breadth. It was worth one hundred shillings, now sixty shillings.”<sup>a</sup>

Some time after the conquest of England by the Normans, we find this manor in the possession of Alured de Lincolnia, or Nichole, (as the French records call him) a person who represented a great and noble family, of high antiquity, and of which Alured was the usual christian name before and after the time of the Conquest, down to 48 Hen. III. when Alured de Nichole died seized, among other lands and possessions, of the manor of Norton, and his nearest heirs were found to be Robert Fitzpaine, son of Margery his eldest sister; Beatrix, his second sister, married to William de Gouiz; and Albreda, his third sister.<sup>b</sup> The manor of Norton was assigned in the partition betwixt these coheirs to William de Gouiz, husband of the second sister, who had livery of it the year after Alured de Nichole's decease.<sup>c</sup> This William de Gouiz died 27 Edw. I. having possessed half a knight's fee in Midsummer-Norton, which the record states he held in chief of John de Vivonia;<sup>d</sup> which moiety of a fee Laurence de Hameldon sometime held in soccage, paying to the said William de Gouiz one penny a year for all services.<sup>e</sup> Joan and Alice were his daughters and heirs.<sup>f</sup> In the first year of Edward the second, Adomar de Archiaco granted to John de Vivonia and Reginald his son a fourth part of the manor of Midsummer-Norton, then certified to be a member of, and to appertain to the manor of Chewton-under-Mendip.<sup>g</sup> Some few years after, viz. 9 Edw. II. Joan de Vivonia, otherwise stiled *de Kyme* from the name of her mother Maud's first husband, and who was the wife of Reginald Fitz-Peter, held a moiety of the manor of Norton.<sup>h</sup> This Joan de Vivonia had three sisters, all of whom had lands in this county and Dorset, by inheritance from their father William de Vivonia, or de Fortibus, second husband of Maud de Kyme or Vivonia above-mentioned.<sup>i</sup> Cecilia the second daughter, and sister of Joan aforesaid, married John de Beauchamp, of Hatch, and, together with her purparty of Midsummer-Norton, inherited the manor of *Welton*, (anciently *Welwoneton*) in this parish, which was part of the barony de Fortibus, and a vill, which gave name to a very ancient family, who had lands in Compton-Dunden and Ashwick.<sup>k</sup> Which manor of Welton continued for many descents in the family of Beauchamp, as well as that portion of Norton which fell to their share as descendants of the Vivonias. The other portions came to Peter Fitz-Reginald, and to Reginald Fitz-Reginald; the last-mentioned died 2 Edw. III. leaving Reginald Fitzherbert his heir.<sup>l</sup> Which Reginald Fitzherbert died 20 Edw. III. and was succeeded by Edmund his son and heir.<sup>m</sup> 48 Edw. III. Matthew Gournay, lord of Farrington-Gournay, had the manor of Welton, with its members of

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday. <sup>b</sup> Cart. Antiq. <sup>c</sup> Rot. Claus. 49 Hen. III. <sup>d</sup> Esc. <sup>e</sup> Lib. Feod. <sup>f</sup> Esc.

<sup>g</sup> Cart. Antiq. <sup>h</sup> Esc. <sup>i</sup> See the Inquisition. <sup>k</sup> Cartular. Abbat. Glaslon. <sup>l</sup> Esc. <sup>m</sup> Ibid.



Midsummer-Norton and Widcombe, which passing with the other lands of the Gournays to the crown," now belongs to the Prince of Wales as Duke of Cornwall. Edmund Fitzherbert above-mentioned held at his death, 10 Ric. II. one messuage, and one carucate of land with its appertinances, together with the fourth part of a fair in Midsummer-Norton, of the King in capite by knight's service. He left issue a son, named Edmund, who died without issue, and a daughter, Alice, married to Sir Thomas West, knt. ancestor to Earl Delawar, to whom she brought the patrimonial estates. Sir Thomas West died 4 Hen. V. seized of a moiety of this manor, and a moiety of the fair, and was succeeded by his brother Reginald.<sup>o</sup> A moiety of the manor was held at the same time by the family of Brook, and descended from them to the Chedders, Newtons, Lord Lisle, and Sir Thomas Griffin.<sup>p</sup>

But besides these disjointed portions, there was yet another manor or rectorial manor in this parish, which formerly belonged to the Canons of Merton in the county of Surry, from which circumstance it obtained the name of *Norton-Canonicorum*. This manor, after the dissolution of that house, was granted to Christ-church college in Oxford, and now remains part of its possessions. It was formerly held under lease by the family of Bull, (who bore for their arms, Or, three bulls' heads *sable*, armed and langued *gules*) and now by James Tooker, esq.

Lands in Compton in this parish were held 37 Hen. VIII. by Robert Longe, esq.<sup>q</sup>

The rectory of Norton-Canonicorum was valued in 1292 at twenty-five marks, and the vicarage at eight marks.<sup>r</sup> It was appropriated to the priory of Merton, which received from it a yearly pension of thirty shillings.<sup>s</sup>

The living is a vicarage in the deanery of Frome, and in the gift of the Dean and Canons of Christchurch. The Rev. Edward Ford is the present incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. John Baptist, is a very ancient edifice, as is evident from the circular arched door-ways, with uncouth zigzag mouldings, and other such decorations, characteristick of the Saxon and Norman stile. It consists of a nave and side aisles, with a handsome tower at the west end of more modern erection than the rest, having been built in the year 1674. This tower contains a clock, and eight bells, three of which were given by King Charles the Second, whose statue in a full-bottomed wig and regalia stands in a niche on the south side.

At the corner of the south aisle stands the wooden effigy of a man in armour, which formerly lay under the singers' gallery, on a raised tomb, long since demolished. It is vulgarly called by the inhabitants *Jack o' Lent*; but tradition says it belonged to one of the name of Warknell. Many of the Harbords of Welton, and the Bulls, were interred here.

In the north aisle is a small mural monument with the following inscription:—  
"Hoc monumentum posuit Johannes Landfdown, in memoriam Christopherei Hobson, A. M. vicarii, qui obiit 11<sup>mo</sup> die Aprilis, Anno Domini 1762, ætatis suæ 76.

<sup>a</sup> See page 139.

<sup>o</sup> Etc.

<sup>p</sup> See in Ubley, p. 156, and Chedder in Winterstoke hundred.

<sup>q</sup> Ter. Sydenham.

<sup>r</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

<sup>s</sup> Taxat. Temporal.

"Dum vivens, moriens nemini se gessit iniquum;

"Sic vivens, moriens, fidat adire Deum.

"Mary, the wife of Christopher Hobson, died March 15, 1737; and Jane their daughter, aged 42, died June 12, 1777."

In the middle of the church-yard stands a very fine ancient yew-tree, whose branches form a circle of one hundred and forty feet.

## P A U L T O N.

**N**ORTHWARD of Midsummer-Norton, and betwixt that parish and High-Littleton, is Paulton, pleasantly situated on the edge of a fruitful vale, which extends southward, and is well wooded and watered. The number of houses is about one hundred and thirty, and that of inhabitants nearly seven hundred and fifty. Most of the houses stand in several irregular streets near the church, and many of them are good substantial dwellings. In this parish, which abounds with lias stone, burnt in great quantities into lime for manure, are two large coal-pits, worked by fire-engines; the coals are very good, and sold at the pit at fourpence a bushel.

We have no account of this place in the old record so often quoted in this book, it having in early times been member of some other manor. In the time of Edw. III. lived John de Palton,<sup>a</sup> who was a knight, and engaged in the wars of that reign; a stone effigy in the chancel is said to represent this man. To him succeeded Sir Robert de Palton, and to him Sir William de Palton, son and heir of Sir Robert, successive possessors of this manor.<sup>b</sup> This Sir William de Palton, by his deed 6 Hen. IV. granted to Richard Lord St. Maur, and to Elizabeth the relict of William Botreaux, all his lands and tenements in Camerton, Doultling, Glastonbury, and Bath, with the advowson of the church of Camerton, and a yearly rent of five shillings, payable out of a tenement in Paulton, late the property of John Duricote, together with all those lands and tenements in Holcombe, which Sir John de Palton, his grandfather, purchased of Juliana de Walton.<sup>c</sup> To which William succeeded another William Palton, who was lord not only of this manor, but of Timsbury, Corfcombe, Camerton, Withycombe, Elworthy, Brompton-Ralph, Holcombe, Wyche, and Bourbache, and also possessed divers lands and tenements in other parishes. At his death, 28 Hen. VI. Joan the wife of John Kelly, and Agnes the wife of Nicholas St. Loe, were found to be his cousins and heirs;<sup>d</sup> and thus the name and line of possession became extinct. The lordship is now the property of Thomas Bury, esq.

Paulton is one of those chapels which belonged to the rectory of Chewton, with which it was given by Hen. V. to the priory of Shene. It appears by the registers of

<sup>a</sup> Cart. Antiq.

<sup>b</sup> Efc.

<sup>c</sup> Rot. claus. 9 Hen. VI.

<sup>d</sup> Efc. 28 Hen. VI.



Wells, that two chaplains had usually served the chapels of Paulton and Farrington; but in 1494 an official decree was issued out that Thomas Golwege, then vicar of Chewton, and his successors, in consideration of the smallness of the revenues of those chapels belonging to the vicarage, should not be bound to find two chaplains to serve the chapels, but that one in future should alternately officiate in both.\*

The church, which is dedicated to the Holy Trinity, is a handsome edifice, rebuilt in the year 1753, and the tower in 1757, of stone brought from the quarries at Doultong on Mendip, at the expence of the parish. The church consists of one aisle and chancel, and the tower has a clock and five bells.

Sir John Palton's mutilated effigy lies on a low tomb on the south side of the chancel. On the north side is a plain mural monument inscribed to several of the Plumer family.

The average number of christenings in this parish are nineteen, and the burials nine annually.

\* Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

## S T O N E - E A S T O N,

Otherwise STONY-EASTON.

THE original name of this village was Easton or Estone, signifying the *East Town*, and given to it on account of its easterly situation from Chewton-Mendip, the hundred town. It was additionally denominated Stony-Easton, by reason of its abounding with those strata of stone which run along the verges of the Mendip hills. There are other places in this county of a similar distinction, as Stony-Hinton, Stony-Stoke, Stony-Littleton, Stony-Stratton, &c. all or most of which have similar reasons for their additional prænomen.

This village, consisting of a long street of tolerably built houses, is situated in an inclosed woody country, in the turnpike-road between Bristol and Shepton-Mallet, and near the intersection of the road from Bath to Wells, at a point called Old-Down. This point is the western angle of a large common of that name, on high ground, and commanding an extensive prospect. Here are found divers varieties of spar, and nodules of iron-stone, which are hollow, and filled with white amethystine crystals of the same kind as those at St. Vincent's rocks, near Bristol. At the intersection of the roads is a large accustomed inn, known by the name of Old-Down Inn.

This place is of high antiquity, being ranked among those manors which were held at the Conquest by Geoffrey Bishop of Coutances. We have the following detail of it in the Norman survey:

"Azelin [that is, Afceline de Percheval] holds of the Bishop, ESTONE. Three  
 "thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for four hides and a half.  
 "The arable is six carucates. In demefne are three carucates, and four servants, and  
 "five villanes, and four bordars, and two cottagers, with four ploughs. There is a  
 "mill which renders thirty pence, and forty acres of meadow, and forty acres of  
 "pasture. It was and is worth seventy shillings."<sup>a</sup>

It had owners of its own name soon after this period; but in the time of Henry III. it became the property of the family de Clifton, (so named from Clifton, their pristine possession in Gloucestershire) of whom were Ignatius de Clifton, and Gervase de Clifton, successive possessors hereof.<sup>b</sup> They held one knight's fee here 24 Edw. I. another in Radstock, and another in Clifton before-mentioned.<sup>c</sup> So did their heirs hold the same 23 Edw. III.<sup>d</sup> In this reign we find other possessions also in this parish. 13 Edw. III. Simon de Trewithose held at his death of the King in chief three acres and a half of arable land in Stony-Easton, (as it was then written)<sup>e</sup> and 20 Edw. III. Bartholomew Peytevyne is certified to hold in Stony-Easton in demefne, as of fee of the King in chief, one messuage, two plough-lands of arable, six acres of meadow, and fifty shillings rent, by the singular service of finding the King yearly at Christmas a sextary or a pint and a half of clove wine, (which was something of the nature of *hippocras*, or spiced wine) and the said land is reported to be worth ten pounds a year.<sup>f</sup> A similar custom prevailed in the manor of *Stert* in this county, which was held of the King by the sergeanty of one gallon of wine, to be paid yearly at the King's exchequer.<sup>g</sup> And another custom somewhat similar to both, though more extraordinary, occurs in the tenure of the manor of *Winterslow* in the county of Wilts, the lord of which was obliged by his service, whenever the King should come to his palace at Clarendon, and make any stay there, to go into the butlery of the said palace, and draw out of any vessel he should find, at his own choice, as much wine as should be needful for making a pitcher of claret, which he was to make at the King's expence, and to serve his Majesty with a cup of it, and after that he was to have for his pains the vessel he took the wine from, the remainder of its contents, and the cup that the King drank out of.<sup>h</sup>

There seem to have been from very early times two manors in Stone-Easton, or at least two vills within the precincts of the same parish. For in the time of Edw. I. and II. the records mention an *Easton-major* and an *Easton-minor*. 33 Edw. III. Richard Greneville and John de Sutton released to John de Chinerefton the manor of Stone-Easton, with lands in Midsummer-Norton and Compton-Dando.<sup>i</sup> Which John de Chinerefton by deed dated 44 Edw. III. granted to William Chedder and his heirs all his manor of Nether-Stony-Easton, together with all his lands in Nether-Stony-Easton, Compton-Dando, Chilcompton, and Midsummer-Norton.<sup>k</sup> This manor continued in the descendants of Brook and Chedder, till it came by a coheiress in the time of Philip and Mary to Sir Thomas Griffin, knt.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.<sup>b</sup> Cart. Antiq. 47 Hen. III.<sup>c</sup> Lib. Feod.<sup>d</sup> Ibid.<sup>e</sup> Efc.<sup>f</sup> Plac. Coron.<sup>g</sup> Ibid.<sup>h</sup> Efc. 50 Edw. III. Wilts.<sup>i</sup> Ex Autog.<sup>k</sup> Ibid.



The other manor in Stone-Easton belonged to the priory of Brewton in this county which held it till its dissolution. 36 Henry VIII. the manor of Stone-Easton, with its appertenances, was granted to John Hippisley, esq; whose son and heir John Hippisley, 17 Eliz. is certified to hold the same, together with the manor of Camely, and twenty messuages and lands in Camely, Temple-Cloud, and Hinton-Blewet, by knight's service. From him descended Preston Hippisley, esq; lord of this manor, whose daughter and sole heir conveyed it with many other manors in this neighbourhood in marriage to John Coxe, of Wiltshire, esq; ancestor of Henry Hippisley Coxe, esq; the present possessor, who has a very elegant mansion, with fine plantations on the north side of the parish church.

The living is a curacy in the deanery of Frome, and is annexed to that of Chewton Mendip.

The church consists of a nave, chancel, and north aisle, with a tower at the west end containing five bells. The arch which divides the chancel from the nave is Saxon, having zigzag mouldings.

In the aisle, which is the burial-place of the Coxe family, there is an old mural monument with the following inscription:—"To the memory of John Hippisley, esq; who departed this life the 28th day of October, Anno Dom. 1664. Also in memory of Ann the wife of Richard Hippisley, esq; who left this life the 20th day of November 1669." On the top of the monument are these arms; *Sable*, two bendlets between three mullets *or*; Hippisley: impaling *argent*, a cross *azure*. On the one side of the monument, Hippisley; on the other *Argent*, a cross *gules*.

In the church-yard, which is surrounded with larch-trees, are two remarkable old yew-trees, of astonishing girth.<sup>m</sup>

John *Stoneston*, probably a native of this parish, was the last abbot of Keynsham.<sup>n</sup>

<sup>m</sup> See vol. i. p. 13, note z.

<sup>n</sup> Archer 618.



## U B L E Y

**I**S the last parish in this hundred westward, and on the borders of Winterstoke, lying under the northern ridge of Mendip-hills, which rise very steep and high immediately from it. The road from the hill into the parish is down a steep precipice, extremely narrow, winding among vast fragments of rock interspersed with coppice-wood, and in many places there are stone steps for several yards together.

In the time of Edw. I. the manor of Obbeleigh was the property of Ralph de Wake; but in that of Edw. II. it was possessed by Richard Damorie, grandson of Gilbert de Aumari, of Winford in this county, who 12 Edw. II. procured from the Crown a licence for a weekly market here on Monday, and a fair yearly, on the eve, day and morrow of the feast of St. Bartholomew the apostle.<sup>a</sup> This Richard Damorie, who served in all the wars of Edw. II. died 4 Edw. III. and was succeeded by Richard his son and heir, who 10 Edw. III. doing his homage had livery of his lands, and 15 Edw. III. after his return from the expedition made into Flanders the preceding year, granted this his manor to Matthew the son of Nicholas Peche.<sup>b</sup> Which Matthew Peche, by deed dated in the eighteenth year of the same reign, granted the manor of Ubley to Robert de Luccombe, and Nicholas le Bole. These persons shortly after sold the manor to Nicholas Hufcarle, who 36 Edw. III. granted the same to Sir Richard de Acton, knt. from whom it was conveyed to John Stoke, and from him to William de Chedder.<sup>c</sup> Sir Thomas Brook died seized of it 5 Henry V. and Joan his wife held it in jointure.<sup>d</sup> Thomas de Chedder was owner of it 21 Henry VI. and by the marriage of his daughter and coheiress Isabel to Sir John Newton, it passed into his family. Richard his son and heir left likewise two daughters coheiresses, of whom Isabel was the wife of Sir Giles Capel, who had this manor in her right, and from him it descended to Sir Henry Capel his son and heir, who had issue Sir Arthur, first knight of Queen Elizabeth, whose issue was Sir Henry Capel, father of Arthur lord Capel, and grandfather of Arthur earl of Essex. In 1726 the Earl of Essex sold it to William Pulteney, esq; afterwards created Earl of Bath; from whom it has descended to William Pulteney, esq; the present possessor. In Thomas de Chedder's time, 21 Henry VI. there was a capital mansion here, with a park containing one hundred and four acres, and one hundred and twenty head of deer.<sup>e</sup>

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster, and in the gift of the King. The Rev. Peter Grigg is the present incumbent. It was formerly appropriated to the abbey of Keynsham.

The church is dedicated to St. Bartholomew, and consists of a nave, north and south ailes, with a square tower and a spire at the west end, containing four bells.

At the upper end of the chancel on the left hand is an escutcheon cut in stone, with two coats thereon impaled: 1. *Sable*, a chevron *ermine* between three escallops

<sup>a</sup> Cart. 12 Ed. II. n. 58.<sup>b</sup> Cart. Antiq.<sup>c</sup> Ibid.<sup>d</sup> Efc.<sup>e</sup> Orig. Survey.



*argent*, Chedder. 2. *Argent*, three fleurs de lis *gules*, a label with three points; and over head *Scutum Dominae Chedder*.<sup>s</sup>

In a window on the north side of the church are two coats, viz. 1. *Argent*, on a chevron *azure*, three garbs *or*, for Newton. The other is, Chedder, charged with a crescent for difference *or*.<sup>b</sup>

On a grave-stone near the communion table is this inscription: "Hic jacet Gulielmus Thomas, ecclesiæ hujus rector plusquam quadragenarius; qui populum docuit publice ac domatim sermone ac exemplo. Vitam, quam pro grege diutius insumere ut pastor non potuit, avidissimo summo pastori reddidit Nov. 15<sup>o</sup>, A. D. 1667<sup>o</sup>, Ætatis suæ 74."

According to the register, the annual number of christenings in this parish is eight, and of burials five, on a seven years' average.

The interest of about 18l. given by Mr. Milner of Bristol, and Mr. Thomas Fry, belongs to the poor of Ubley. They have also the rent of a small paddock.

<sup>s</sup> MSS. Notes, taken June 5, 1677.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid.

*Additional Remarks on some\* of the foregoing Parishes.*

C A M E L E Y.

PAGE 125, L. I.

THIS stream is the source of the little river *Cam*, from which the parish has its name. The parish is divided into two manors, viz. CAMELEY and TEMPLE-CLOUD, where they hold a court-leet, at which they choose their own peace-officers, returning them to the hundred-court at Chewton. There are the remains of a large mansion built by the family of the Hippisleys. In the parish register is the following account of an extraordinary murder:—"A. Dni 1573, the 21st day of November was the murther of thes

" Personnes:

" Thomas Froster, parson

Margrett Jenying

" Ales Nayler, widdow

Isabell Plentye.

" The murtherers weare John Jenannies, William Mashie. They were executed at Chard the year following."

Near Cameley is *Chalwell*, which seems to be the CILELE of Domesday-Book, p. 34.

E M B O R O W.

PAGE 134.

THIS parish lies in the hundreds of Chewton and Whittone, and comprises two manors, viz. EMBOROW and WHITTENHULL. The former was the property of Sir Richard de Emmeberwe, knt. who by his deed without date granted it to his nephew Alexander de Mountfort. In the reign of Richard II. it was the possession of Sir Hugh de Berewyk, knt. whose son Thomas Berwyke dying without issue, Margaret his sister, the wife of Ralph Boteler, esq; became heir to the estate. From the Botelers it passed to the Byffe family, and from them to the Roynons, who 13 Eliz. conveyed it to John Hippisley, esq; whose family had before possessions in this parish.\*

\* From original deeds in the possession of Henry Hippisley Cox, esq.

The manor of WHITTENHULL belonged to the families of Apharry, Walbeoff, and Gunter, and from the last passed to Hippisley.

The *lake* or *pond* in this parish was granted by John Boteler, lord of Emborow, to the Monks of Charterhouse-Hinton; after the dissolution of which monastery it was granted by King Henry VIII. to Thomas Horner, esq; who conveyed it to the Hippisley family.

Emborow and Ston-Easton are chapels of ease to Chewton, to the vicar of which church they pay vicarial tithes.

## HINTON-BLEWET.

PAGE 145.

THE manor was sold 38 Eliz. by John Hippisley of Cameley, to John Stocker of Chilcompton.

## MIDSUMMER-NORTON.

PAGE 149.

THERE are four tithings in this parish, viz. NORTON, WELTON, CLAPTON, and DOWNSIDE. In the tithing of Downside is Norton-Hall, the seat of James Tooker, esq. And on the confines of the same tithing, near the parish of Stratton-on-the-Fosse, is a well-built square house, now belonging to William Fookes, esq. This house, with some lands adjoining, was lately sold to him by Henry Hippisley Coxe, of Ston-Easton, esq; who now possesses other lands in this tithing, together with the manor of *Bentor*, which he enjoys by will of his relation Mrs. Mary Hooper, eldest daughter and coheirs of Sir William Davie, of Creedy, in the county of Devon, bart. who took it by marriage with the daughter of George Stedman, esq. It formerly belonged to the family of Plumley of Harptree.

## STON-EASTON, STONY-ASTON, or STONY-ESTON,

PAGE 153.

CONSISTS of two hamlets, viz. STON-EASTON MAJOR, and STON-EASTON MINOR, otherwise *Hay-street*, or *High-street*, which last place was formerly lands of Chaffin, then of Tooker and Mogg. They both now belong to the same possessor. Ston-Easton Major was the property of Bartholomew Peytevyn, who had issue Walter, who by Lucia his wife had issue Gilbert, who 21 Edward III. granted the manor to Robert prior of Brewton, in which monastery it continued till the dissolution, when coming to the crown, King Henry VIII. in the 36th year of his reign granted it in fee to John Hippisley, esq; whose family held it before of the prior of Brewton. This family had very large possessions in this and the neighbouring counties of Wilts and Berks, and is the root from which three families of this name sprang:—the family of Lamborne, in Berks, which is now represented by the Rev. J. Hippisley, of Stow in the county of Gloucester; the Stanton branch, of which J. Hippisley Trenchard, of Abbot's-Leigh near Bristol, is the last heir male; and the family of Wanborough, which is now extinct; the two last places being in the county of Wilts.

They were all descended from their common ancestor John Hippisley, of Ston-Easton, esq; by Elizabeth daughter of J. Organ, of Lamborne, in the county of Berks, esq; which said John Hippisley died in 1613. Henry Hippisley Coxe, esq; the present possessor of this manor, is the immediate descendant in the female line from Preston Hippisley, esq; whose daughter married John Coxe, of Bassett's-down in the county of Wilts, esq; which family came from Gloucestershire, where a branch of them now lives, and the elder branch in the adjoining county of Hereford.

*Old-Down* in this parish is now inclosed.

THE



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THE HUNDRED OF  
C R E W K E R N E.

**T**HIS hundred lies in the lowest part of the county southward, on the borders of Dorsetshire, having part thereof on its southeast angle. The property of it was anciently vested in the Courtneys, Earls of Devon; its more recent possessors have been the Earls Poulet, of Hinton-Saint-George, a lordship contained within its precincts. It derived its name from Crewkerne, its chief town.

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C R E W K E R N E,

**A** Very ancient town, known in the Saxon times by the name of *Lpucerne*, which is compounded of the words *Lpuce* a cross, and *Eayne* a cottage, or place of retirement. There is no doubt that this name was applied to it in the early ages of Christianity, when churches were rare, and hermitages or cells were the usual places of religious associations.

It is situated in a rich and fertile vale, well wooded and watered, and surrounded with cultivated eminences, which command extensive and very beautiful prospects. The town consists principally of five streets, and the parish comprehends the vills or hamlets of CLAPTON, HEWISH, WOOLMISTON, FURLAND, where was a chapel, ROWNDHAM, and LAYMORE. The river Ax runs through the parish, (and the Parret through part of it) turning a corn-mill in the hamlet of Clapton; another mill there is, turned by a stream, which rises near the lodge in Lord Poulet's, and falls into the river near the county bridge, which is built of stone, and consists of three arches. Leland visited this town, but saw nothing remarkable in it. "Crokehorn (says he) is sette under the rootes of an hille. Ther I saw nothing very notable. Yet ther ys a praty crosse environid with smaull pillers, and a praty tounse house yn the market place." The market is held on Saturdays, and there is a fair for cattle on the fourth of September.

In early times this was a royal manor, endowed with many privileges, and exempt from all taxations.

"The King (says the Norman Survey) holds CRUCHE. Eddeva held it in the time of King Edward, but paid no geld, nor is it known how many hides are there, "The arable is forty carucates. In demesne are five carucates, and twelve servants, "and twenty-six coliberts, and forty-two villanes, and forty-five cottagers, with twenty "ploughs. There are four mills of forty shillings rent, and a market rendering four "pounds. There are sixty acres of meadow. Pasture half a mile long, and four "furlongs broad. A wood four furlongs long, and two furlongs broad. It yields "forty-six pounds of white money.

"From this manor is severed ESTHAM. In the time of King Edward it was of the "farm of the manor, and could not be separated from it. Turstin holds it of Earl "Morton. It is worth fifty shillings."

In the time of Hen. II. this great manor of Crewkerne came to the possession of Baldwin de Redvers, baron of Oakhampton in Devonshire, by his marriage with Alice,<sup>c</sup> daughter and heir of Ralph de Dol in Berry,<sup>d</sup> but he died without any issue by her, as did Richard de Redvers his brother, who succeeded him in this manor and in his honours in Devon. By which means the family possessions resorted to William uncle of the said Baldwin, and Richard de Redvers. Which William, who was surnamed *de Vernon*, from the place where he received his education, gave in the sixth year of King John the sum of five hundred marks, to be repossessed of certain lordships in Devonshire, and to be acquitted of the annual rent of fourscore pounds which he paid for this his manor of Crewkerne.<sup>e</sup> But shortly after the said William gave this manor to Robert de Courtney in free marriage with Mary his daughter.<sup>f</sup> To which Robert succeeded John de Courtney, who died 2 Edw. I. leaving issue by Isabel daughter of Hugh de Vere earl of Oxford, Hugh de Courtney baron of Oakhampton, his heir and successor. Which Hugh married Eleanor daughter of Hugh lord Dispenfer, by whom he was father of Hugh lord Courtney, the first Earl of Devonshire of that name. He died seized of this manor 14 Edw. III.<sup>g</sup> leaving issue by Agnes his wife, sister of John lord St. John of Basing, Hugh de Courtney the third, and the second Earl of Devonshire of that name. He married Margaret, daughter of Humphrey de Bohun earl of Hereford and Essex, and dying 51 Edw. III. was suc-

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Domestday.—The manor of *Eastham*, (so called to distinguish it from Rowndham) in another part of the Record, is thus further surveyed:

"Turstin holds of the Earl [Morton above-mentioned] ESTHAM. Goduin, the King's bailiff, held in the time of King Edward, with CRUCHE, a manor belonging to the King, and could not be severed from the farm, "and gelded for two hides. The arable is two carucates, which are in demesne, with ten cottagers, and one "servant. There is a mill of twelve shillings rent, and twelve acres of meadow, and twenty acres of wood. It "was and is worth fifty shillings."

It afterwards went with the manor of Crewkerne; the benefice was rectorial, now a sinecure, the church being destroyed, and the village (formerly considerable) depopulated.

<sup>c</sup> Sir William Pole's Survey of Devon, MS.

<sup>d</sup> Dugd. Bar. i, 255.

<sup>e</sup> Rot. Fin. 6 Joh. m. 8.

<sup>f</sup> Esc.

<sup>g</sup> Ibid.



ceeded in this manor by another Hugh de Courtney, his eldest son, commonly called Hugh Courtney le Fitz, who married Elizabeth daughter of Lord Guy de Brien, and had issue Hugh, who married Joan daughter of Thomas Holland Earl of Kent, sister to King Richard II. but had no issue by her. His father died in his grandfather's life-time, and he shortly after.<sup>b</sup> Edward Courtney, eldest son of Edward Courtney, third son of Hugh Earl of Devonshire, succeeded to the title and estates. He was stiled the blind Earl, and married Matilda daughter of Thomas Lord Camois: he died 7 Hen. V. seized of the manor and hundred of Crewkerne, and the advowson of the church of Crewkerne, and of the three portions in the said church belonging to the manor, viz. the portion of the dean of the said church, the portion of the sub-dean, and the portion of the chapel of Milterton annexed to the said church; and the advowson of the chantry of the blessed Virgin Mary in the said church, and of the chantry of the blessed Virgin Mary in the cemetery thereof, appertaining to the manor of Crewkerne: all which property was held of the King in capite, by knight's service, as parcel of the honour of Plympton in the county of Devon,<sup>i</sup> given to Richard de Redvers by King Henry the first.<sup>k</sup> Edward, the eldest son of this Earl of Devon dying a year before his father, Hugh, the second, succeeded to the title and estate, and had to wife Anne daughter of Richard Lord Talbot, and sister of the celebrated John Talbot Earl of Shrewsbury, by whom he had issue Thomas, and departed this life 10 Hen. V. then seized of this and other large manors in Somerset and Dorset.<sup>l</sup> Thomas Courtney, son of Hugh, succeeded his father, and married Margaret Beaufort, second daughter of John Earl of Somerset, by whom he had issue Thomas, beheaded at York by the command of Edward IV. in the year 1462, Henry, beheaded at Salisbury in 1466, and John, who was slain at Tewkesbury in Gloucestershire in 1471. He had also several other children; but Thomas the first, and Henry the second son, above-mentioned, being attainted for treason, Sir Humphrey Stafford was created Earl of Devonshire, (who was also afterwards beheaded) and the lands and possessions of the family were seized by the Crown. This manor, with many others, was granted 18 Edw. IV. to George Duke of Clarence. Notwithstanding this attainder of the Courtneys, and the extinction of the first line of that family, many of the lands were restored to their former channel, and the title renewed in the person of Sir Edward Courtney, kn. who was son of Sir Hugh Courtney of Boconnock, son of Sir Hugh Courtney of Haccomb, younger son of Sir Edward Courtney, and brother of Edward Courtney, third Earl of Devonshire. This Sir Edward Courtney had four sisters, whose posterity inherited the remaining lands of Edward the last Earl of the name of Courtney, who died issueless, viz. Elizabeth, wife of John Tretherf; Maud, wife of John Arundell of Talvarn; Isabel, wife of William Mohun; and Florence, wife of John Trelawney. The part of Tretherf became afterwards the property of Vivian. 23 Eliz. John Arundel had the fourth part of the manor of Crewkerne Magna and Parva, and had licence to alienate the same, with one hundred and forty messuages there and elsewhere, to Sir Amias Paulett, who died seized of the same Sept. 26, 1588. His descendant, John Earl Poulett, now inherits this manor.

<sup>b</sup> Sir Wm. Pole.<sup>i</sup> Etc.<sup>k</sup> Sir Wm. Pole.<sup>l</sup> Etc.

This parish, in the time of William the Conqueror, had a church, and large possessions annexed thereto, belonging to the abbey of St. Stephen of Caen, in the diocese of Bayeux in Normandy, to which it was given by William Duke of Normandy, the founder, who was buried there in 1093. To this abbey William was extravagantly munificent; for besides the immense bounties which he in his life-time conferred thereon, he on his death was fain to give it all his favourite trinkets, the crown which he used to wear at high festivals, his sceptre and rod, his cup set with precious stones, his golden candlesticks, and all his other regalia; nay, even the bugle horn, which he used to carry at his back, went to pot! It seems it was some difficulty to recover these matters from the abbey; for it is evident that it cost King William the Second the manor of Coker in this county, and a large parcel of exemptions, to redeem what had been so foolishly squandered.—The Norman record thus describes the lands belonging to that monastery in this parish:

“The church of St. Stephen holds of the King the church of CRUCHE. There are “ten hides. The arable is thirteen carucates. Thereof in demesne are two hides, and “there is one carucate, with one servant, and eleven villanes, and two coliberts, and “seventeen cottagers, with six ploughs. There are ten acres of meadow, and half a “mile of pasture in length and breadth. Of these ten hides a knight holds of the “abbot three hides, and has there two carucates, with one servant, and six villanes, and “two cottagers, with four ploughs. There is a mill of five shillings rent, and ten acres “of meadow, and half a mile of pasture in length and breadth. It is worth to the abbot “seven pounds, to the knight four pounds.”<sup>m</sup>

The parsonage of the living is an impropriation belonging to the church of Winchester. William Hufsey, esq; holds the rectorial manor.

The church was anciently divided into three portions; the first of which was in 1292 valued at fifty marks, (in 1554 at 55*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.*) the second at sixteen, and the third at ten.<sup>n</sup> 1 Edw. II. it was found not to the King's detriment to grant to Agnes de Monceaux a licence settling the sum of 4*l.* 4*s.* 3*d.* rent in Crewkerne on a certain chaplain in this church to celebrate mass daily in perpetuum.<sup>o</sup> The last incumbent of this service was John Godge, who in 1553 received the sum of four pounds three shillings and fourpence, by way of pension.<sup>p</sup>

The church is a large, lofty, and stately Gothick building, in the form of a cross, in the center of which is a handsome embattled tower, standing on four massive pillars. On each side of the communion table is a door leading into a small room, which was formerly a confessional, or place where in days of Popery a reverend confessor sat in form to hear the declarations of his penitents, and to dispense absolutions. The virtues and advantages of confession are not improperly expressed by some figures over the doors which lead into this apartment. That by which the penitents entered has two swine carved over it, to signify their pollution; over that by which they returned are two angels, to represent their purity and innocence.

<sup>m</sup> Lib. Domestday.

<sup>n</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

<sup>o</sup> Inq. ad quod damnum, 1 Edw. II.

<sup>p</sup> Willis's Hist. of Abbies, ii. 202.



On the west side of the north end of the transept is a large mural monument of stone, with two tablets, on which are these inscriptions:

"M. S. Johannis Merefield, servient. ad legem, qui obiit viceffimo fecundo die Octob. A. D. 1666, et ætatis fuæ 75. Et Eleanoræ uxoris ejus, filiæ Johannis Williams, de Herringfton in agro Dorcest. armig. quæ obiit undecimo die Septembris A. D. 1655.—Hic juxta pofita eft Alicia filia et hæres Johannis Cofton, de Bowerhenton, armigeri, et uxor Roberti Merefield, armig. quæ obiit 12 die April A. D. 1678, ætat. fuæ 29."—The Merefields were of Woolmifton.

On the fame wall is another fmall mural monument of ftone, on which is a brafs plate, with the following infcription:—"Speâatiffimi viri M. Henrici Trat, nuper dum vixit ludi magiftri Crewkernienfis longe celeberrimi; cujus defideratiffimæ animæ depositum fubtus in Domino conquiefcit, defunctum primo die Maij, et fepultum feptimo die, A. D. 1679, ætat. fuæ 55."—To which is added a long apoftrophe by one of his fcholars.

On the north pillar at the northeaft corner of the transept is a mural monument of black and white marble. The tablet, fupported by two round detached columns bears this infcription:—"M. S. Thomæ Way, qui, fi ætatem proveâtiorem attigiffet, ipfe fibi exegiffet monumentum, marmoreo ifthoc tanto perennius, quanto ingenii opera manuum funt diuturniora. Eam enim à natura vim animo habuit inftam, quæ doctrinas, quibufcunq; puerilis ætas imbui debet, faciles redderet, et jucundas: literarum tamen ftudium eâ ftrenua fedulitate, quæ vincit omnia, finit quamvis difficillima, profecutus eft. Erat etiam moribus innocuus, integer, fanâctusq; condifcipulorum amans; obfequens doctoribus; et matris viduæ (cui filius erat unicus) obfervantiffimus. Augufti kalend. 16 anno a Xto nato 1723, ætat. fuæ 18; variolis per oppidum Crewkerniæ tum mifere graffantibus, atrociffimorum fymptomatum impetu corruptus eft. Et poftquàm pia fortitudine vehementiore triduum conflictaverat, quarto iniqui hujus certaminis die purpuream efflavit animam."

Under the eaft window is a plain mural monument of ftone with this infcription:—"Elizabeth Wyke, wife of John Wyke, of Henly in the county of Somerfet, efquier, daughter of James Coffine, of Munckly in the county of Devon, efquier; was born Aug. 5, 1565, died May 21ft, and was buried May 28, 1613, being then of the age of 50 years; and had iffue three daughters then living, Elizabeth, Rebecca, and Frances.

E nding on earth, to rebegin in heaven,  
L oving my Maker dearer than my mate;  
I calmly in a quiet ocean driven,  
S ayl'd to this port, where love admits not hate.  
A nkor'd I have fo fafely, that I fcorne,  
B e it with wind, tyde, weather, to be torne;  
E clipfing fins, dark'ning bright virtue's fun,  
T hat weave fuch webbs of woes t' intangle foules,  
H ave here no refidence, but downward run,  
E arthy they are, Heav'n's judgment them controules;

God hath appointed firy feraplfins,  
 To ftand as fentinells 'gaynst death, 'gaynst fins.  
 W ell came my death, that brought me unto life,  
 I ll gain my life, which would procure my death,  
 K nowing the careful reft from combrous strife,  
 E njoy I fhould with my Creator's breath;  
 For by fuch meanes fuch pow'r I do attaine,  
 Ever to live, never to die againe."

At the fouth end of the transept are three old ftone tombs; one is infcribed as follows:  
 "Here lieth the body of Adam Martin, efq; of Seaborow, who was buried Dec. 20,  
 1678."——The infcriptions on the other two are illegible.

Near the above, is a mural monument of black ftone, on which is infcribed:——  
 "In a vault underneath are deposite the remains of Elizabeth Trevelyan, daughter  
 of John Trevelyan, of Minehead, efq; who died Nov. 6, 1776, aged 65."

On a brafs plate in one of the pillars in the nave, is the following account of  
 benefactions to the poor:

"Martha Mintern, of Crewkerne, gentlewoman, (obiit May 10, 1712, ætat. fuæ  
 90) in compaffion to the poor of the faid parifh, hath for ever given the lands called  
 Tuxingdon's, part of the eftate of Robert Ford, gentleman, to the ufes following, viz.  
 Two third parts of the clear yearly profits of the faid eftate to be divided among fuch  
 poor people as the curate, churchwardens, overfeers of the poor for the time being, and  
 the trustees for the faid lands, fhall think fit; to each poor perfon, every Candlemas-  
 day, three fhillings. And the other part of the clear yearly profit of the faid eftate to  
 be employed in the education of fuch poor children as the perfons above-named  
 fhall appoint."

On the fouth wall in a black frame, is the following account of other charities:

"Mr. Mat. Chubb gave the old alms-houfe for eight poor people.

"Mrs. Mary Davies gave the new alms-houfe for fix poor men and fix poor women,  
 and half a hundred of wood to each yearly. And alfo four pounds to be given to the  
 poor, one fhilling each, on New-Year's day.

"Mr. Coffins gave 3l. 12s. a year, out of Furington's, for the education of poor  
 children.

"Mrs. Jane Reynolds gave 3l. to the poor of this town, and 1l. to the poor of  
 Hewifh; one fhilling each to be given Easter-Monday, by the overfeers, paid out of  
 the Grinham eftate.

"A. D. 1730. Mr. William Budd gave 20l. for the ufe of two induftrious tradef-  
 men with bondfmen, four years without interest.

"A. D. 1762. Mrs. Elizabeth Cookfon gave the ufe of 50l. for poor children  
 to be taught to read."

A charity-fchool here, endowed by Dr. Hody, and other benefactors, ftill flourifhes.

This



This parish gave birth and residence to a family of its name, who flourished in the times of Hen. IV. and V. in great prosperity.

Westward of Crewkerne, and between that town and Chard, is a hill called *Rana-Hill*, on which was a chapel dedicated to St. Ranus, which contained his bones.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Itin. Willelmi de Worcestre, 163.

## M I S T E R T O N.

**S**OUTHWARD from Crewkerne, and in the road into Dorsetshire, lies Misterton, in a low and flat situation, but environed by a beautiful and rich country. The lands are mostly pasture and meadow, and abound with a yellowish kind of rag-stone, which is used for the roads, and for rough building. This stone contains a few *cornua ammonis*, and some fossil shells of the bivalve kind.

The manor of Misterton has always belonged to the great manor of Crewkerne, for which reason it does not appear in the Norman Survey. In all the records it is called Misterton in the parish of Crewkerne; and the church, which is a vicarage, formed one of the portions of that benefice. The Rev. Mr. Ash is the present incumbent.

The church is a small edifice, without either tower, turret, or spire, consisting of a nave, chancel, and side aisles; at the east end of the south aisle are two small bells. It is dedicated to St. Leonard.

## H I N T O N   S T.   G E O R G E.

**T**HIS parish is pleasantly situated three miles northwest from Crewkerne, the greater part thereof on rising ground from the north, having the seat and noble woods and plantations of Earl Poulett on the south, part of which are on a fine eminence, and command a very extensive and beautiful prospect over the greatest part of the county, and the Dorsetshire mountains to the south. In the upper part of the parish, near the fourth mile stone in the road from Chard to Crewkerne, both the north and south seas appear. A fine spring rises near the church, from which a rivulet runs to Merriot, and thence to South-Petherton; another which has its source in the park, after passing over a water-fall about fourteen feet high, runs through Dinnington, and afterwards joins the former near Lopeton, where it turns a corn-mill.

<sup>a</sup> "So caullid bycause the paroch church there is dedicate to St. George." Lcl. Itin. ii. 94.

There is a hamlet within this parish called CRAFT, and in old deeds *Craft-Warre*, from its having formerly belonged to the ancient family of the Warres of Hestercombe.<sup>b</sup> It lies southwest from Hinton.

The manor of Hinton belonged in the Norman days to William de Ow, and was then called *Hantone*.

"William himself holds HANTONE. In the time of King Edward it gelded for thirteen hides. The arable is twelve carucates. Thereof in demesne are five hides, and there are four carucates, and five servants, and sixteen villanes, and twenty-four cottagers with ten ploughs. There are two mills of seven shillings and sixpence rent, and sixty acres of meadow. Wood one mile in length, and half a mile broad. When he received it, it was worth twelve pounds, now fifteen pounds."<sup>c</sup>

The family of Powtrel were ancient owners of Hinton St. George, of whom were John and George Powtrel, in the time of Richard I. and King John. Whether the former possessed this estate or not, is not certain; but the latter enjoyed it, and in the time of Henry III. devised it to an only daughter and heir, married to John Giffard, who sometime resided here;<sup>d</sup> but died without issue male, and the lands descended by Alice his daughter and heir to Sir Philip Deneband, of Pescayth in Monmouthshire, knt.<sup>e</sup> Which Sir Philip was father of William Deneband, who 29 Hen. III. gave to his younger brother Hamon a moiety of this manor, which was held of Roger le Bigod Earl of Norfolk and marshal of England.<sup>f</sup> After many successions of this family of Deneband, the manor of Hinton came, by the marriage of Elizabeth daughter and heir of John Deneband with Sir William Paulett, knt. into that ancient family, who were afterwards ennobled with the barony.

The Paulets, or (as they are now written) Pouletts, had their name from the village of Paulet near Bridgwater. The first that assumed this name was Hercules, Lord of Tournon in Picardy, who came into England with Jeffery Plantagenet Earl of Anjou, third son of Henry II. His son and heir, Sir William de Paulet, had his residence at Leigh-Paulet in Devonshire; and dying in 1242, was succeeded by Sir William of the same place, who died in 1281, leaving issue Sir William Paulet, who died in 1314, and was succeeded by Sir Walter Paulet, who had his dwelling chiefly at Road in this county. This Sir Walter died in 1322, and was succeeded by Sir William Paulet, who was also of Road; and after him came Sir John Paulet, knight, who was of Goathurst in this county.<sup>g</sup> Which Sir John married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Reigni, or Reyney, of Rowd in Wiltshire, and Sheerston in this county; the arms of which family, viz. a pair of wings conjoined in lure, were used by his successor Sir John Paulet, 15 Ric. II. This Sir John Paulet, son of Sir John, was one of those who engaged in the expedition under Thomas Plantagenet, Earl of Buckingham, in aid of the Duke of Brittany against the French;<sup>h</sup> and having married Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Sir John Creedy,<sup>i</sup> of Creedy in the county of Devon, had issue two sons, Sir Thomas Paulet, knt. and William Paulet, progenitor of the

<sup>b</sup> See Kingston in Taunton hundred.    <sup>c</sup> Lib. Domesday.    <sup>d</sup> Cart. Antiq.    <sup>e</sup> Sir Wm. Pole's MSS.

<sup>f</sup> Cart. Antiq.

<sup>g</sup> Ex Stemmate.

<sup>h</sup> Hollinshed's Chron. ii. 426.

<sup>i</sup> Sir Wm. Pole says William Credy, MS. Survey of Devon.



Pouletts, Dukes of Bolton. Which Sir Thomas Paulet married Margaret, daughter and heir of Henry Boniton,<sup>\*</sup> and was father of Sir William Paulet, who married the heiress of Deneband. This Sir William left issue one son Sir Amias Paulet, and four daughters. Sir Amias was knighted for his gallant behaviour at the battle of Newark upon Trent, June 16, 1487. He built much at Hinton, but resided for the most part in London, where he was treasurer to the Society of the Middle Temple. He died in 1538, leaving issue, by Lora his second wife, daughter of William Kellaway, of Rockborne in the county of Southampton, esq; three sons and one daughter. Sir Hugh, the eldest son, was in the French wars in 1544, and 31 Hen. VIII. was made supervisor of all the manors, messuages, and lands, lately belonging to Richard Whiting, abbot of Glastonbury, attainted. 33 Hen. VIII. he had a grant of Upcroft and Combe in Crewkerne, and was sheriff of the county 29 and 34 Hen. VIII. and 1 Edw. VI. He married first, Elizabeth, daughter of Walter Blount, esq; by whom he had no issue; and secondly Philippa, daughter and heir of Sir Lewis Pollard, knt. by whom he had issue three sons and one daughter. Sir Amias Paulet, the eldest son, died seized of Hinton-St.-George, Sept. 26, 1588, leaving issue by Margaret, daughter and heir of Anthony Harvey, esq; three sons, Hugh, who died in his infancy, Sir Anthony Poulett, and George Paulet, of Goathurst. He had also three daughters. Sir Anthony Poulett succeeded to the title and estate, and married Catherine, sole daughter of Henry Lord Norris, Baron of Rycot, by whom he had issue two sons and two daughters. John the eldest son was in 1627 advanced to the dignity of a Baron, by the title of Lord Poulett, of Hinton-St.-George. He married Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Christopher Ken, of Ken-Court, esq; by whom he had three sons and five daughters, viz. John, his eldest son and successor, who was in 1640 elected knight of the shire for this county, and distinguished himself for his loyalty during the civil wars. He died in 1665, at his manor-house at Court de Wick, and was buried at Hinton. He married first, Catherine, daughter and coheir of Sir Horatio Vere, knt. Lord Vere of Tilbury, by whom he had two sons, John and Horatio; and three daughters, Elizabeth, Vere, and Catherine. To his second wife he married Anne, second daughter and coheir of Sir Thomas Brown, bart. by whom he had issue two sons, Amias, and Charles; also four daughters, Anne, Florence, Mary, and Margaret. John, his eldest son and heir, succeeded him, and married Essex, daughter of Alexander Popham, of Littlecot, esq; by whom he was father of two daughters, Catherine and Letitia; by his second wife Susan, daughter of Philip Earl of Pembroke, he had issue his only son and heir John Lord Poulett, created Viscount of Hinton-St.-George and Earl Poulett in 1706. His Lordship married Bridget, daughter and coheir of Peregrine Bertie, esq; and by her had issue four sons, John, who succeeded him, Peregrine, buried at Hinton-St.-George, Vere, and Lord Anne, so named by Queen Anne his godmother; as also four daughters, whose names were Bridget, Catherine, Susan, and Rebecca. John succeeded his father, as second Earl Poulett, and dying unmarried, his estate and titles devolved on his brother Vere Poulett, father of John Earl Poulett, the present Lord of Hinton-St.-George. His Lordship's arms are, *Sable*, three swords in pile, their points in base, *argent*, pomels and hilts *or*.

<sup>\*</sup> Burton, according to Sir William Pole.

The living of Hinton, valued in 1292 at ten marks,<sup>1</sup> is a rectory in the deanery of Crewkerne, and in the gift of Earl Poulett. The Rev. Mr. Tudor is the present incumbent.

The church consists of a nave and side aisles, with a well-built tower at the west end, containing five bells. The north aisle or chapel belongs to Earl Poulett, and contains many monuments of that noble family. The arch, which divides it from the chancel, is filled up with a large stone monument, on which, under a canopy, lie the effigies of Anthony and Catherine Poulett, and on the sides of it ten of their children kneeling; the inscription is:—"Hic jacet Antonius Poulet, miles et dux insulæ Jersey, qui obiit 22 die Julij, Anno Dñi 1600. Hic jacet Dña Katherina Poulet, uxor Antonii Poulet, militis, filia unica Henrici Dñi Norris, Baronis de Rycot, qui obiit 24 die Martii, Anno Dñi 1601."

Against and within the north wall of this chapel lie the effigies of a knight in compleat armour, and his lady, with two plain coats of the Poulets carved over them, and this inscription:—"Hic jacet Amisius Poulet, miles, qui obiit decimo die Aprilis 1537."

Adjoining to this is another monument of stone, having thereon the effigies of a man and woman, he is in compleat armour, and the same achievement as the former, inscribed,—"Hic jacet Hugo Poulet, miles, qui obiit 6 die Decembris Anno Dñi ....

At the east end of the chapel is a very stately monument to the memory of John Lord Poulett, first Baron of Hinton-St.-George, and John Lord Poulett the second.

Round a blue flat stone in the same chapel was the following inscription:—"Ici gist Anesteise de Saint Quentin fille Sire Johan. Gutzabers fême Herbert de Seynt Quentyn. Pries pur lui ke Du de s'alme eyt mercy +"

Round a flat stone in the chancel:—

"Hic jacet Amos Poulet, miles, filius secundus Antonii Poulet, militis, qui obiit 1<sup>mo</sup> die Maii Año Dñi 1626."

On the north side of the nave, another of the family of Poulet lies in effigy on an ancient tomb of stone.

On the same side is a white marble monument, with this inscription:—"Rebecca Poulett, youngest daughter of John Earl Poulett, of Hinton-St.-George, by Bridget his wife, daughter and coheirs of Peregrine Bertie, son to the Earl of Lindsay, died March 2, 1765. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. This monument is erected to her memory by her sister Susan Poulett."

\* Against the east wall of the south aisle is a monument of stone, and over it on a brass plate the effigies of Adam and Elizabeth Martin, with several of their children kneeling, and a copy of indifferent Latin verses.

<sup>1</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.



## M E R R I O T.

**T**HIS parish and village, formerly written *Meriet*, lie at a small distance northward from Crewkerne, and eastward from Hinton-St.-George, in a pleasant fruitful country.

Meriet is noticed in the general Survey as the land of two different persons, Robert Earl of Morton, and Harding Fitz-Alnod, one of the King's thanes.

"Dodeman holds of the Earl, MERIET. Lewin and Bristward held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for seven hides. The arable is seven carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and six servants, and ten villanes, and six cottagers, with four ploughs. There are three mills of thirty shillings rent, and twenty-five acres of meadow, and half a mile of pasture in length and breadth. It was worth four pounds, now seven pounds."<sup>a</sup>

"The same [Harding] holds MERIET. Goduin held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is six carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and two servants, and nine villanes, and six cottagers, with two ploughs. There is a mill of five shillings rent, and ten acres of meadow, and three furlongs of pasture. It was formerly worth one hundred shillings, now it is worth four pounds."<sup>b</sup>

In this village, in the time of King Richard the first, lived a family who assumed their names from it. Nicholas de Meriet had considerable possessions in this county in that reign, and was assessed at thirty-eight shillings and nine-pence as scutage for the King's ransom.<sup>c</sup> He was succeeded by Hugh de Meriet, his son and heir, who 14 Hen. III. paid 25 marks for his relief of his lands.<sup>d</sup>

To him succeeded Nicholas de Meriet, who 20 Hen. III. gave seven pounds ten shillings for his relief of one knight's fee in Meriet, which his father Hugh held of the King in chief.<sup>e</sup> Also 38 Hen. III. he accounted for the sum of thirty-seven shillings and two-pence, in the aid for making the King's eldest son a knight.<sup>f</sup>

To which Nicholas succeeded John de Meriet, who died 13 Edw. I. seized of the manor of Meriet, and the advowson of the church thereof, then certified to be of the yearly value of twenty pounds.<sup>g</sup>

John, his son and heir, was a great warrior, and had the honour of knighthood conferred upon him by King Edward I. in all whose wars he was engaged, and from whom he obtained a charter of free warren, a market, and a fair in this manor. 28th of that reign he was one of those great men who had a special summons to attend the King with horse and arms to march against the Scots.<sup>h</sup> He died shortly after,<sup>i</sup> and by his wife Lucia left issue John de Meriet, George, and William.<sup>k</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday. <sup>b</sup> Ibid. <sup>c</sup> Rot. Pip. 6 Ric. I. <sup>d</sup> Rot. Fin. 14 Hen. III. <sup>e</sup> Rot. Fin. 20 Hen. III.

<sup>f</sup> Rot. Pip. 38 Hen. III.

<sup>g</sup> Efc.

<sup>h</sup> MS. penes Edit.

<sup>i</sup> Efc.

<sup>k</sup> Cart. Antiq.

John de Meriet, the eldest son, was also a knight, and bore for his arms Barry of six, surmounted by a bend.<sup>1</sup> He seems to have been in great favour in the court of Edw. II. but was of a turbulent temper, insomuch that he was excommunicated by John de Drokenesford, bishop of Bath and Wells, for embowelling his deceased wife.<sup>m</sup> He was afterwards pardoned, and died 1 Edw. III. leaving issue John his heir and successor, at the age of twenty years.<sup>n</sup>

Which last-mentioned John died soon after his father, as did also George de Meriet, lord of this manor, whose son and heir by Isabella his wife was

Another Sir John de Meriet, lord of this and other manors in this county, wherein he was succeeded by

Walter de Meriet, who is stiled of Comb-Flory.<sup>o</sup> He was lord also of a manor in Long-Ashton, called Ashton-Meriet, from the name of this family. Dying without issue 19 Edw. III. Simon de Meriet, his nephew, became possessed of the estates.

Sir John Meriet, son and heir of Simon, was a knight. He married Eleanor sister and coheir of John de Beauchamp of Hatch, by whom he had issue

John Meriet, who succeeded him in this manor, and possessed also the lordships of Lopen, Stratton, and Marston-Magna, with the advowson of the churches of Merriot and Buckland; all which, after his death 46 Edw. III. descended to John Meriet his son and heir.<sup>p</sup>

Which John Meriet was a knight, and of much reputation in the days wherein he lived. His wife's name was Maud, by whom he had issue one son, George, and two daughters, viz. Margaret the wife of Sir Thomas Bonville, and Elizabeth the wife of Humphrey Stafford.<sup>q</sup> George died issueless, and a partition being made of the lands of Meriet betwixt the daughters, this manor was assigned to Margaret the wife of Sir Thomas Bonville.<sup>r</sup>

Which Sir Thomas Bonville was father of Sir William Bonville, who died in his father's life-time; but left issue by Elizabeth, only daughter and heir of William Lord Harington, William Bonville, Lord Harington, who died in the life-time of his grandfather; and left issue by Catherine, daughter of Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury, an only daughter Cecily, married to Thomas Grey, Marquis of Dorset. After the death of the said Cecily, Thomas Grey, Marquis of Dorset, her son, possessed it; and after him his son Henry Duke of Suffolk; by whose attainder it fell to the Crown, 1 Mary, the manor of Merriot, with lands in Merriot and Chescombe, belonged to William Rice,<sup>s</sup> and it is now the property of Henry Rodbard, esq.

The church of Merriot, valued in 1292 at twenty marks,<sup>t</sup> was appropriated to the abbey of Muchelney, A. D. 1382.<sup>u</sup> It is a vicarage in the deanery of Crewkerne, and in the gift of the Dean and Chapter of Bristol. The Rev. Mr. Price is the present incumbent,

<sup>1</sup> Seals from ancient deeds, Somerset.

<sup>m</sup> Excerpt. e Regist. Joh. Drokenesford, Ep. B. et W.    <sup>n</sup> Efc.

<sup>o</sup> Cart. Antiq.

<sup>p</sup> Efc.

<sup>q</sup> This or another Elizabeth is called the wife of Urry Seymour.

<sup>r</sup> Cart. Antiq.

<sup>s</sup> Ter. Sydenham.

<sup>t</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

<sup>u</sup> Pat. 18 Ric. II. p. 2. m. 2.



The church, which is dedicated to All-Saints, is a neat structure, and consists of a nave, and two side ailes. A tower at the west end contains a clock and five bells. Here was a chantry, founded by one of the Meriets.

In the south aile is a neat mural monument of black and white marble, inscribed, "This monument is erected to the pious memory of that worthy gentlewoman Mary the wife of John Rodbard, of this place, esq; and eldest daughter of Henry Henley, of Leigh, in this county, esq; by Catherine his wife, daughter and sole heiress of Richard Holt, of Nursted in the county of Southampton, esq; who died Jan. 7, 1733, aged 35. John Rodbard, of Merriot, esq; died March 20, 1744, aged 55; justly esteemed and lamented by his neighbours and relations. He left, by the above-mentioned Mary his wife, three sons and a daughter of age sufficient to remember and mourn so good a parent."—Arms: *Or*, a chevron between three oxen *sable*; impaled with *azure*, a lion rampant *argent*, crowned *or*, within a bordure of the second, charged with eight torteaux.

On another neat mural monument of white marble:—"To the memory of Mary daughter of John and Mary Rodbard, who died Oct. 20, 1745, aged 18. William Rodbard died Nov. 22, 1762, aged 32."

On a mural monument of white marble near the south door:—"Near this place lieth the body of John England, of London, esq; who died April 2, 1742, aged 59."

Arms: *Gules*, three lions *argent*, passant in pale; impaling *sable*, between two bends, six leopard's heads cabossed *or*.

#### Benefactions to the Poor:

James Hooper, esq; 100l. Robert Gough, esq; 70l. Robert England, esq; 100l. The interest to be distributed annually on Good-Friday and St. Thomas-Day, among the second poor.

#### S E A B O R O U G H.

**T**HIS parish lies southwest from Crewkerne, on the borders of the river Ax, which on the south and east divides it from the county of Dorset. Its ancient name was *Seveberge*, under which it is thus noticed in the Norman Survey:

"The Bishop [of Salisbury] holds SEVEBERGE. Alward held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for a hide and a half. The arable is one carucate and a half. Yet there are two ploughs, and two villanes, and four cottagers, and two servants. There is half a mill rendering ten-pence, and nine acres of meadow, and ten acres of wood. Pasture half a mile long, and half a furlong broad. To this manor is added another SEVEBERGE. Aluer held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for a hide and a half. There are two ploughs, with one villane, and five cottagers, and

“half a mill rendering ten-pence, and nine acres of meadow, and ten acres of wood. Pasture half a mile long, and half a furlong broad. These two lands are not of the bishoprick of Sarisberie. Bishop Osmund held them for one manor, and Walter of him. They were and are worth sixty shillings. In the time of King Edward they belonged to Crewkerne, the King's manor, and they who held them could not be separated from it, and paid to Crewkerne a customary rent of twelve sheep with their lambs, and one pig of iron from every freeman.”

Soon after this account was written, King William the Conqueror gave this manor with other lands to Le Sieur de Vaus, or Vallibus, who came over with him from France;<sup>b</sup> the Bishop of Sarum was then the capital lord, and the feudal service due from the manor was that of one soldier. In which family of De Vallibus, Seaborough descended through many generations, but the names of the several possessors do not all occur. In the time of Henry III. Ralph de Vallibus being obliged to send men in the service of that king, when he undertook a crusade to the Holy Land, amongst others dispatched one John Gole out of his manor of Seaborough, who went accordingly to Jerusalem, and was present at the siege of Damietta, where he fought valiantly, and after his return, as a reward for his merits, this Ralph de Vallibus gave him an estate in Seaborough (by deed still extant) about A. D. 1229.

This Ralph de Vallibus had an only daughter and heir named Grecia, who about the year 1245 married Eudo de Rochford, and by that marriage the manor and estate were transferred to the Rochford family, having continued in that of de Vallibus for one hundred and eighty years. This Grecia, though thus married to Eudo de Rochford, in all her deeds made after marriage, still retained her maiden name, according to the custom made use of in France to this day; and under that title 51 Hen. III. A. D. 1267, joined with her husband in a grant of this manor, and the advowson of the church, together with a pound of pepper, and a pound of cummin-feed, payable annually by the abbot of Ford, unto their son Ralph and his heirs for ever. But 14 Edw. II. John, the son of this Ralph de Rochford, sold the whole of this manor and estate to John Gold of Seaborough, who was in all probability a descendant of that John Gole, or Gold, the crusader above-mentioned.

The manor, estate, and advowson, thus transferred from the Rochford family, (in which they had continued about seventy-six years) to the Golds, were delivered down in a lineal and direct descent in that family from father to son for almost three hundred years. The last of the family was John Gold, who was killed in a field on Henley farm near Seaborough, in the beginning of the reign of Queen Mary, as he was pursuing his favourite diversion of hawking at harvest time. Mr. Weeks, the then owner of the farm, (between whose family and that of the Golds there had existed an ancient animosity) being in the field at the same time, ordered some of his workmen to beat Mr. Gold off his horse, which one of them did with a rake, and killed him. For this murder Mr. Weeks and two of his men were tried at an assize held at Crewkerne upon the occasion, and being found guilty, were condemned and executed.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domestday.

<sup>b</sup> Battle-Abbey Roll.



John Gold thus dying, the estate, manor, and advowson of Seaborough, became the property of his widow Elizabeth, who lived near thirty years after his decease. They having no issue, Seaborough fell immediately on the death of the said Elizabeth to John Gold's heirs, who were four sisters, Margaret, Catherine, Alice, and Anne. Margaret the eldest married with Richard Martin, esq; second son of Sir William Martin, of Athelhamstone in the county of Dorset, knt. Catherine the second married Mr. Henry Hoskins; Alice the third married with Mr. John Bale, (whose family lived afterwards at Seaborough near one hundred years); and Anne the youngest sister married with William Stretchley, of Devonshire, esq. Catherine survived her husband, but died a widow at Seaborough without issue, 20 March 1586, and by her death one fourth part of Seaborough reverted to the three surviving sisters, whose husbands, Martin, Bale, and Stretchley, in 1589 divided the demesne lands in Seaborough by lot. Mrs. Stretchley survived her husband, and being willing to part with that proportion which had fallen to her share, Mr. Martin and Mr. Bale were competitors for it; but Mr. Bale prevailed, and by the purchase became possessed of two third parts of the house and demesne lands. The families of Martin and Bale inhabited each their respective parts of the dwelling or mansion-house. But they were too near neighbours to continue long good friends, and the ways to each other's grounds became also matter of contention. Wherefore Mr. Hugh Martin, grandson of Mr. Richard Martin, who married the eldest sister of the Golds, pulled down his third part of the mansion, and carrying off the materials, built the house in Seaborough in 1591, in which some of the Martins have dwelt ever since; and soon after they settled their ways to their respective grounds. The two third parts continued in the family of Bale till about the year 1682, when Mr. James Bale sold them to Sir John Strode, of Parnham, knt. and from him they have descended to his relation Sir William Oglander, bart. the present possessor. The third part of the manor Mr. Bale sold in fee to the respective tenants, and the heirs of Mrs. Stretchley did the like. A. D. 1586, a survey was made of such lands as the Widow Gold died possessed of; from which survey it appears that John Wills was a freeholder in the manor of Seaborough, and also held lands of the lord thereof. His freehold and other lands have ever since been in the same family, being now the property of the Rev. John Wills, D. D. warden of Wadham-college in Oxford. There were other free tenants, but their lands have been all since purchased by the Martins, and the property of the parish is now in the hands of Mrs. Martin, Sir William Oglander, and the Rev. Dr. Wills.

At some of the courts held by the lords of this manor we find very singular presentments and orders made. 3 Ric. III. two women, viz. Isabella, the wife of William Pery, and Alianore Slade, were presented for common scolds, and fined in one penny each, which two-pence were the whole perquisites of the court. And at the same time an order of court was made that the tenants of the manor should not scold their wives, under pain of forfeiting their tenements and cottages. 23 Hen. VII. an order was made that tenants' wives should not scold, under the penalty of a six and eight-penny fine, half to go to the repairs of the chapel, and the other half to the lord of the manor.

Northeast from Seaborough stands HENLEY, the place where John Gold was murdered by Mr. Weeks's labourers. Its name signifies the ancient leigh or pasture, from the British word *Hen*, signifying old, and the Saxon *Lea*, a pasture or field. It was formerly so considerable as to give name to an eminent family, who had large possessions in this county, Dorset, and Devon, and bore for their arms, *Azure*, a lion rampant *argent*, crowned *or*, within a bordure of the second, charged with eight torteaux. Of this family Robert Henley was sheriff of the county in 1612. His grandson Robert Henly was created a baronet June 30, 1660. The title is now extinct. Of this family was also Anthony Henley, esq; that friend and ornament to music, poetry, and jovial society, in the reign of Queen Anne, who died in August 1711.

The living of Seaborough is a rectory in the deanery of Crewkerne; the patronage is in the family of Martin, and the Rev. Dr. Wills, presented by Adam Martin, esq; in 1779, is the present incumbent.

3 Hen. V. John Golde of Seaborough gave, by licence from the King, to John Thredder, parson of the church of Seaborough, a certain parcel of land in the village, containing one hundred feet in length, and sixty feet in breadth, for the building a new church there.\* This church being in the latter end of the sixteenth century found too small for the inhabitants, an additional building was made to it on the north side; but A. D. 1728, the old part of the church being damaged in the roof and walls, and this additional building being found defective and inconvenient, a faculty was obtained for pulling down that part thereof, and for erecting in its place an aisle twelve feet square, which was accordingly done, and the church was new roofed, new seated, and handsomely adorned.

In the chancel is a mural monument of stone with a white marble tablet, whereon is the following inscription:—"M. S. Adami Martin, armig. qui, tanquam semper moriturus, vivens; tanquam semper victurus, mortuus est, die 15<sup>o</sup> Jan. 1738, ætat. 66." On the top of this monument is placed a bust, large as life, in a robe gathered close below the shoulders, and a flowing curled periwig. This Adam Martin was father of the late Adam Martin, who died and was buried at Wootton in Warwickshire in 1784.

The parsonage-house was built by the present rector; on the south front is the following inscription:—"Johannes Wills, S. T. P. hujus parochiæ rector, necnon Collegii Wadhani apud Oxon. Guardianus, hanc domum sua Impensa ædificandam curavit A. D. MDCCLXXXIV."

\* Inq. ad quod damnum.





## W A Y F O R D.

A PARISH situated on the southeast slope of a rising ground to the south of Crewkerne, and a little to the right of the turnpike-road leading thence to Lyme-Regis in Dorsetshire. It consists of two tithings, WAYFORD and OATHILL. The land is mostly pasture and meadow.

No notice is taken in the Conqueror's Survey of either Wayford or Oathill, both having been included in the manor of Crewkerne. The manor is now the property of John Bragg, of Thorncombe in the county of Devon, esq.

The living is rectorial, and in the deanery of Crewkerne; John Pinney, of Broad-Windfor in the county of Dorset, esq; is patron, and the Rev. John Corpe the present incumbent.

The church is a small edifice, consisting of a nave leaded, and a chancel and porch tiled; with a wooden turret painted white, at the west end, in which are two bells.

In the chancel are two mural monuments of white, black, and Sienna marble, containing these inscriptions:

"Near this place are deposited the remains of Azariah Pinney, of Bettiscombe in the county of Dorset, esq. He departed this life May 21, 1760, aged 53. His daily benefactions and universal benevolence to the poor, by encouraging honest industry, will be a more lasting memorial than this monument."

"In memory of John Frederick Pinney, of Bettiscombe in the county of Dorset, esq; who represented the borough of Bridport in two successive parliaments, and behaved with the freedom and dignity of a British senator. In private life he was just, humane, and generous; of much humour and pleasantry with his friends; of a flowing courtesy to all men. Firm in affliction, he for years bore the severest pains of the gout with uncommon fortitude; and relying on the mercy of God, died with the hope of a christian Nov. 11, 1762, aged 44." Arms: *Gules*, three crescents, each gripping a crozier fiché, *or*.

Mrs. Elizabeth Bragg gave in 1719 the sum of fifty shillings a year for the schooling of poor children within this parish, payable yearly to the minister and churchwarden, out of the profits of her estate called Ashcombe, by the tenant or occupiers thereof.

A charity of five pounds per annum was given to such of the poor as did not receive alms, by Daubeney Turbeville, M. D. by deed bearing date May 2, 1723.

The christenings in this parish are ten, the burials four. This disproportion principally arises from many children belonging to the parish of Crewkerne being baptized here, and none buried but the inhabitants.





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THE HUNDRED OF  
N O R T H - C U R R Y

**I**S a long narrow tract of land, lying between the hundreds of Abdick and Bulston on the south, and Andersfield and part of Somerton on the north. On either side are two large moors, called Stanmoor and West-Sedgmoor, which are a dead flat, extending to the foot of that ridge of hills, which runs from Curry-Rivel westward to Bickenhall. The west, northwest, and southwest parts are inclosed, and interspersed with cultivated hills and fruitful vallies. It contains five parishes, of which the principal is North-Curry, whence it derives its name.

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N O R T H - C U R R Y

**I**S a parish of large extent, seven miles nearly east from Taunton, and ten south from Bridgwater, including a town of its name, and several tithings and hamlets.

The principal part of the town is an irregular street near the church, which stands on an elevated spot, and commands from its tower a finely varied prospect of woody inclosures, and extensive level moors, skirted with a lofty ridge of hills to the east and south. West-Moor, Curry-Moor, and Hay-Moor, are all included within the precincts of the parish; and the inhabitants have a right of common on West-Sedgmoor, Stanmoor, Warmoor, and West-Wall, adjoining to the Isle of Athelney, where the commonage is unlimited for all sorts and numbers of cattle throughout the year.

The river Tone runs through this parish under a stone bridge of one arch, in its way to Boroughbridge, where it mingles with the Parret.

Here was formerly a market on Wednesday<sup>a</sup> long since discontinued; but a fair of antient standing is still held on the first of August.

<sup>a</sup> Cart. 7 Joh. n. 52.

This place was of very considerable note in former days, and not unknown to the Romans. In July 1748, on ploughing up a field in which an old hedge had stood, an urn was found, containing a quantity of silver coins of Gratian, Valentinian, Valens, Theodosius, Honorius, Constantine, Constans, Julian, and many others. When the Romans left this island, it became the property of the Saxon Kings, and when William the Conqueror came to the crown, he himself reserved it in demesne. In his time it had the following description:

“The King holds NORTCURI. Earl Herald held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for twenty hides. The arable is forty carucates. Thereof in demesne are five hides, and there are five carucates, and eighteen servants, and twenty-three co-liberts, and one hundred villanes, wanting five, and fifteen cottagers with thirty ploughs. There are sixty acres of meadow, and fifty acres of wood. Pasture two miles long, and one mile broad. To this manor belong five burgessees in Langporth, rendering thirty-eight pence, and eighteen servants, and four swineherds, and two cottagers. The whole renders twenty-four pounds of white money. There is a fishery, but it does not belong to the farm, and seven acres of vineyard.

“The church of this manor Bishop Maurice holds, with three hides of the same land. He has there seven villanes, and eleven cottagers, and two servants, with four ploughs, and eighteen acres of meadow, and five acres of pasture, and twelve acres of wood. It renders sixty shillings.

“Of the same land of this manor Ansger holds one hide of Earl Morton. It is worth twenty shillings.”<sup>b</sup>

It continued in the crown from this date till the time of Richard the first, who in 1189 gave the hundred, manor, and advowson of the church of North-Curry, with the land of Hatch, Wrantage, and all its appertenances, to the church of St. Andrew in Wells;<sup>c</sup> and in the year 1190, Reginald, then bishop of Bath and Wells, settled it by licence from the King on the canons of that church, which appointment was fully confirmed by King John in the first year of his reign.<sup>d</sup> The dean and chapter have ever since held this manor.

14 Hen. II. Robert, provost of North-Curry, paid the sum of forty shillings aid for marrying the King's daughter. The rest of the men of North-Curry paid six pounds thirteen shillings and fourpence.<sup>e</sup>

The tithings and hamlets within this parish are, KNAP, LILLISDON, WRANTAGE, HILLEND, NEWPORT, and MOORDON. The first of these, viz. KNAP, was granted by Hameline de Godely, 35 Edw. I. to the Dean and Chapter of the church of St. Andrew in Wells, and their successors for ever. The said Hameline held it of Cecilia de Beauchamp, by the service of sixpence per annum, and doing suit at her three weeks court at Dunden. Cecily held it of the abbot of Glastonbury, and the abbot of the King.<sup>f</sup>

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>c</sup> Cart. Antiq. Wharton's Anglia Sacra, Godwin de Præfulibus, &c.

<sup>d</sup> Cart. 1 Joh. p. i. m. 6. n. 44.

<sup>e</sup> Mag. Rot. 14 Hen. II.

<sup>f</sup> Inq. ad quod damnum, 35 Edw. I.



LILLISDON was in the time of Edw. I. the land of Baldric de Nonington, who held it of the King, as of the honour of the castle of Carisbrook in the Isle of Wight.<sup>c</sup> 3 Edw. III. John Brodhome granted to Richard de Stapledon a moiety of the manor of Lillifdon for life.<sup>b</sup> It was afterwards possessed by the Bonvilles, Wykes of Ninehead, and the Beauchamps; and now belongs to John Collins, of Hatch-Beauchamp, esq; who is lord also of HUNTHAM *cum* SLOUGH.

MOORDON, or MOORDOWN, is the property of Henry William Portman, esq.

NEWPORT was anciently distinguished as a borough, having its privileges and peculiar officers; it now only retains the name. Neither of these places are noticed in the Norman Survey. At Knap, Lillifdon, Wrantage, and Newport, were formerly chapels.

There is also a manor here belonging to Warwick Colmady, esq.

A. D. 1293, the temporalities of the Chapter of Wells in North-Curry were valued at forty-five pounds, and those of the abbot of Athelney at twenty-six shillings and eight-pence.<sup>d</sup>

The vicarage was rated in 1292 at twenty marks.<sup>e</sup> It lies in the deanery of Taunton. The Rev. Canon Wilton is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, is a large Gothick structure, built in the form of a cross, consisting of a nave, chancel, two side ailes, and a transept. Over the intersection of the transept with the nave stands an hexagonal embattled tower, containing a clock and five bells.

At the south end of the transept lie two effigies in stone of a man and woman, but without any memorial.

On a brass plate in the floor:—"Heere lyethe the bodye of John Bullor the younger, of Lillefdon, esquier, who was buried the 29th of Februarie 1598."

In the floor of a pew which formerly belonged to the same family, is another brass, inscribed,—"Here lyethe the bodye of Elizabethe Bullor, late the wife of John Bullor the yonger, of Lillifdon, esquier, who deceased the 29th of Januarie 1587."

The second poor receive the interest of forty pounds, being the remains of a much larger donation, now lost.

<sup>c</sup> Efc.

<sup>b</sup> Cart. Antiq.

<sup>d</sup> Taxat. Temporal.

<sup>e</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.



## W E S T - H A T C H,

SO called on account of its westerly situation from Hatch-Beauchamp in the hundred of Abdick and Bullstone, is a small parish containing forty-five houses, most of which are small farms and cottages. The country is rather flat and woody; the chief wood oak and elm, of which there is a large coppice, consisting of ten acres. The only common land is *Shutwood-Green*, containing five acres; and *Stoley's-Green*, containing twenty acres.

The manor is included in the grant of King Richard the first to the church of Wells, and now belongs to the Dean and Chapter. The following ancient custom is still observed here. The reeve, or bailiff to the manor, provides at the lord's expence a feast on Christmas-Day; and distributes to each housholder a loaf of bread, a pound and a half of beef, and the like quantity of pork, undressed; and the same evening treats them with a supper.

The living is appendant to North-Curry, not mentioned in the taxations, or other similar records. The church consists of a nave, chancel, and porch tiled, and a large old tower, forty-one feet high, with three bells.

On the north wall of the nave is this inscription:—"In memory of John Knowles, gent. who departed this life the 16th day of June 1724; and in his last will gave five pounds, to be left in the churchwardens' hands for ever, and the interest of the same to be given to the second poor in bread on Christmas-Day."

## S T O K E - G R E G O R Y.

THIS vill, denominated from the dedication of its church, is situated in the moors westward from North-Curry, being almost surrounded by Stanmoor on the north, West-Sedgmoor on the south, and North-Curry-Moor and Hay-Moor on the west. On all these moors the tenants have a right of common. For driving the moors a reeve is appointed annually.

This parish contains the following hamlets:

1. MARE-GREEN, one mile northwest.
2. WOODHILL-GREEN, bordering on West-Sedgmoor.
3. CURRYLODE (corruptly called CURLWOOD-GREEN) adjoining Stanmoor.
4. MOORLANDS.
5. WARMOOR.
6. STAETH, on the river Parret,

None



None of these places occur in the Norman Survey, they having in early times been members of some adjoining manors, or perhaps depopulated by hostile depredations. The abbot of Athelney had possessions in Currylode soon after the Conquest, as also in Staeth, together with free commonage in Stathmoor, Stanmoor, Haymoor, and Currymoor.<sup>a</sup> 7 Edw. VI. the demesnes and manor of Currylode were held by Thomas Reve and George Cotton, and by them alienated to Valentine Brown.<sup>b</sup>

Moorlands belonged to the family of Tilly, and thence passed to the house of Perceval.<sup>c</sup>

The manor of Staeth was part of the barony of the ancient Barons de Moels.<sup>d</sup>

The manor of Stoke-Gregory is parcel of the possessions of the Dean and Chapter of Wells, who are also patrons of the benefice, which is appendant to North-Curry.

The church is built in the form of a cross, and has at the west end an octangular tower with a low spire, and five bells.

In the south transept are two monuments of stone, inscribed,

"Here under lyeth the body of Edward Court, of Lillisdon in this county, esq. He departed this life Oct. 26, 1682." With several of his family.

"Here lieth the body of Alexander Court, of the parish of North-Curry in this county, gent. youngest brother of the abovesaid Edward Court, sen. esq; who died Aug. 10, 1705. Also the body of Margaret Court, one of the daughters of the said Edward Court, sen. who died at the city of Bath, July 21, 1710."

<sup>a</sup> Regist. de Athelney, MS.    <sup>b</sup> Ter. Sydenham.    <sup>c</sup> Efc.    <sup>d</sup> Lib. Feod.

## T H O R N - F A L C O N,

Anciently THORN-FAGON, or THORN-PARVA,

**I**S a small parish four miles eastward from Taunton, and in the road from that town to Salisbury. It is called in Domesday-Book *Torne*, being the property of Robert earl of Morton:

"Ansger holds of the Earl, TORNE. Algar held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for six hides. The arable is six carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and three servants, and five villanes, and four cottagers, with two ploughs. There are eight acres of meadow, and two acres of coppice-wood. It was and is worth three pounds."

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

This

This place had for a long space of time owners of its name, who held the manor under the castle of Dunster, and did service to that court. 14 Edw. I. William de Thorn is certified to hold two small fees in Thorn-Fagon of John de Mohun, lord of Dunster.<sup>b</sup> After him several other Williams held the same. 44 Edw. III. Richard de Acton was lord of this place.<sup>c</sup> 22 Ric. II. Roger de Mortimer, earl of March, held one knight's fee here, as of the honour of Merfshwood. 5 Hen. V. Sir Thomas Brook possessed this manor, and from him it descended to the Chedders and the Capels. It afterwards came into the possession of the family of BurrIDGE, of Lyme in Dorsetshire, of whom it was purchased by Mr. Nathaniel Butler Batten, of Yeovil, the present possessor.

The rectory of Thorn-Falcon was rated in 1292 at ten marks.<sup>d</sup> The lords of the manor have always been patrons; the Rev. Mr. Newcomen is the present incumbent.

The church is of one pace, having a tower at the west end which contains three bells.

In the chancel is a memorial to the Rev. Benjamin Jouxton, rector of this parish twenty-four years, who died Sept. 27, 1739, aged 72.

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Feod.

<sup>c</sup> Efc.

<sup>d</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

## THURLBEER, or THURLBURY.

**T**HIS parish lies on the borders of the hundred of Taunton-Dean, in a woody country agreeably diversified with small hills and vallies. Its ancient name was *Torlaberie*, and it is so called in the Norman Survey.

"Drogo holds of the Earl [Morton] *TORLABERIE*. Ulviet held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is nine carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and five servants, and twenty-one villanes, with seven ploughs. There are fifteen acres of meadow, and twenty acres of wood. It was and is worth six pounds."<sup>a</sup>

This Drogo, or Dru, was surnamed de Montacute, and was progenitor of the Barons Montacute, and the Earls of Sarum, of whom we shall speak hereafter. In this family the manor of Thurlbeer long continued, and 11 Edw. II. William de Montacute, eldest son of Simon lord Montacute, procured from the King a charter of free warren in all his demesne lands within this parish.<sup>b</sup> 9 Hen. VI. Cecilia the wife of Sir William Cheyne, knt. possessed this manor, and held it of the King in capite by the service of the fourth part of a knight's fee. It was also some time in the possession of the Bonville family. 1 and 2 Phil. and Mary, the manor and demesne lands here were

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> Cart. 11 Edw. II. n. 65.



granted to William lord Howard, of Effingham, who the following year sold the same to Sir William Portman, knt. whose descendant, Henry William Portman, esq; is the present owner.

Here is a small hamlet, called GREENWAY.

The church was valued in 1292 at ten marks.\* It was heretofore a chapel to St. Mary Magdalen's in Taunton; but Sir William Portman restored the tithes, and it is now (with Stoke-Saint-Mary annexed) a rectory, whereof the lord of the manor is patron, and the Rev. Charles Russell the present incumbent.

The church consists of a nave, chancel, and porch, tiled, with a clumsy embattled tower at the west end, containing four bells. It is dedicated to St. Thomas.

\* Taxat. Spiritual.





FROM SCHOOL.  
THE ORIGINAL BUILDING OF A SCHOOL



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THE HUNDRED OF  
F R O M E.

**T**HIS hundred lies on the eastern verge of the county, having that of Wellow on the north; Kilmerston, with the liberties of Hill-house, Mells, and Leigh, on the west; and the hundreds of Brewton and Norton-Ferris on the south. It contains one market-town, and seventeen parishes. The country is finely diversified with hills and dales, and in many parts truly romantick.

This hundred was formerly held in serjeanty by the family of Braunch, and others.<sup>a</sup>

In the time of William the Conqueror it consisted of two hundred and ninety-eight hides.<sup>b</sup>

From the third penny of Frome, William de Moion, then sheriff, paid the crown five shillings.<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Efc.

<sup>b</sup> Exeter Domesday.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid.

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F R O M E

**I**S a large populous market-town, pleasantly situated on the northeast declivity of a hill in the forest of Selwood, whence it has frequently that appendage to its name. Its simple appellation arose from the river Frome,<sup>a</sup> (in Saxon From) which passes through the lower part of the town, under a stone bridge of five arches, besides which it has over it three other bridges within this parish, called Wall-bridge, Blatch-bridge, and Bradford's-bridge. The market is on Wednesdays, and four fairs are annually held; but only two of any account, which are on the feasts of St. Matthias and St. Catherine. This town contains thirty-eight streets, thirteen lanes, and twelve courts, bartons, &c. Most of the streets are narrow and irregular, without paving, except some narrow foot-ways on one side of rough stone, with which the houses are chiefly constructed. It has long been famous for the manufacture of woollen cloth,

<sup>a</sup> This river has its source about five miles southeast from the town, at Yarnfield-Common, bordering on the county of Wilts.

which of late (it is said) has been rather declining than increasing. But from an accurate inspection lately made, it appears that one hundred and sixty thousand yards are annually made, of which four-fifths are broad-cloths, and the rest narrow-cloths and cassimeres. In the above manufacture, one thousand four hundred and fifty packs of wool, of two hundred and forty pounds weight each, are employed.

From a late survey the town was found to contain one thousand three hundred and forty-eight families, and six thousand three hundred and forty-two inhabitants; seven hamlets within the parish contain sixty-six families, and three hundred and fifteen inhabitants; and two hundred and seventy detached houses, one thousand four hundred and forty-eight inhabitants:—in all, one thousand six hundred and eighty-four families, and eight thousand one hundred and five inhabitants. The hamlets are as follow:

TYTHERINGTON, two miles and a quarter south.

RODDENBURY-HILL, three miles southeast.

FRIGGLE-STREET, three nearly east.

LITTLE-KEYFORD, one southwest.

EGGFORD, one mile and a quarter west.

OLDFORD, one mile and a half north.

CLINK, one mile northeast.

The parish is divided into three tithings, viz. the Town tithing, the West-Woodlands, and the East-Woodlands. The principal peace-officers are two constables and a tithingman for the town tithing, annually chosen at the court-leet of the Earl of Cork and Orrery; a constable and tithingman for the West-Woodlands, chosen at the court-leet of Lord Viscount Weymouth; and a tithingman for the East-Woodlands, chosen at the hundred court of Frome.

The first account we have of Frome commences with the reign of Ina, king of the West-Saxons, whose kinsman Aldhelm, monk of Malmesbury, and afterwards bishop of Sherborne, founded here a monastery to the honour of St. John Baptist about A. D. 705. The monks that composed this society were obliged to disperse on account of the persecutions of the Danes during their inroads into these parts, and they never seem afterwards to have been reassembled; but the church existed so late as the reign of King Stephen, as we learn from William of Malmesbury, who tells us, that in his days it was still standing, and by its durability had defeated the shock of ages.<sup>b</sup> There are some vestiges of this old building still remaining in that part of the town which is called Lower-Keyford, and are now converted into small tenements for poor families. At the intersection of two streets near these remains stood an ancient octagonal cross, on a square pedestal, which being ruinous, was lately taken down.

In a part of the town called Hill-Lane, once stood an old building, by tradition a priory, of which there now remains but a small part, which is converted into a cellar within a house built by Mr. Bull, and still in the possession of that family. And on the

<sup>b</sup> *Wilhelmi Malm'sb. de Vita Aldhelmi*, in *Angl. Sacra*, tom. ii. p. 8.



top of a street called Catherine-hill, was a small cell of nuns, dedicated to that Saint, the chapel whereof, which was of considerable capacity, is now converted into several tenements.

The Norman Survey furnishes us with the following memorial concerning this ancient place:—

“ The King holds FROME. King Edward held it. It never was assessed, nor is it known how many hides there are. The arable is fifty carucates. In demesne are three carucates, and six coliberts, and thirty-one villanes, and thirty-six cottagers, with forty ploughs. There are three mills rendering twenty-five shillings, and a market rendering forty-six shillings and eight-pence. There are thirty acres of meadow, and fifty acres of pasture. Wood one mile long, and as much broad. It renders fifty-three pounds and five-pence, every ore being of the value of twenty pence.

“ Of this manor the church of St. John of Frome holds eight carucates of land, and also held the same in the time of King Edward. Reinbald is priest there.”

In the time of Henry II. the greatest part of Frome was in the possession of the family of Fitz-Bernard,<sup>d</sup> of whom were Hameline, William, and Richard, which last held his property of Dru de Montacute.<sup>e</sup> He had a son called Ralph Fitz-Bernard, who by Alianor his wife was father of Joan his sole daughter and heir. This Joan, about the time of King John, married with William Branch, or Braunche, (as he is sometimes written) who in her right became possessed of the hundred, manor, and town of Frome, with other property in this and the neighbouring counties; and 23 Hen. III. paid one hundred shillings for his relief of the lands of his wife's inheritance.<sup>f</sup> This William bore on his seal a fleur de lis, surmounted with a file of three points.<sup>g</sup> He died 8 Edw. I.<sup>h</sup> and was succeeded by Nicholas Braunche, who with Roberga his wife held the manors of Frome and *la Valice*, with the hundred of Frome, by the service of one knight's fee, 7 Edw. II. Sir Andrew Braunche, son and heir of Nicholas, 19 Edw. III. granted two mills in Frome, and the bailiwick of the bedelary of the hundred of Frome, to Robert Adymot for life, which mills and bailiwick were certified to be held of the King as parcel of the manor of Frome-Braunche.<sup>i</sup> He died 23 Edw. III. leaving issue Thomas his son and heir; but he dying in his minority, the manor became the property of Richard Winslade, who had married Alianor sister of the said Andrew Braunche, and who held at his death seven messuages, one hundred and sixty-two acres of arable land, eighteen acres of meadow, eighty acres of pasture, fifty-one acres of wood, sixteen shillings rent, and the third part of a mill with appertenances in Frome, Radden, and Marston-Bigot.<sup>k</sup> To Richard Winslade succeeded Stephen his son and heir, who granted the manor of Frome-Valleyse to John Payne, of London, armourer, for life, and died 6 Hen. IV. seized of the manor and hundred of Frome, leaving Elizabeth the wife of Edmund Leversege his daughter and heir.<sup>l</sup> Which Edmund Leversege bore for his arms a chevron between three dolphins.<sup>m</sup> Robert Leversege, 4 Edw. IV. died seized of the manor and hundred of Frome, and had for his successor William his son

<sup>c</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>d</sup> Cart. Antiq.

<sup>e</sup> Lib. nig. Scac. i. 94.

<sup>f</sup> Rot. Pip. 23 Hen. III.

<sup>g</sup> Seals from ancient deeds.

<sup>h</sup> Esc.

<sup>i</sup> Cart. Antiq.

<sup>j</sup> Esc.

<sup>k</sup> Ibid.

<sup>l</sup> From old deeds.

and heir.<sup>a</sup> By an inquisition taken at Selwood, 23 Oct. 1 Hen. VIII. it was found that Edward Leversege died 7 Sept. 24 Hen. VII. seized of the manor and hundred of Frome, and the manor of Bromham in the county of Wilts, leaving by Eleanor his wife one son, Robert Posthumus Leversege, who succeeded him, and two daughters, Anne and Margaret.<sup>b</sup> Eleanor his wife survived him, and married to her second husband Sir Henry Long, knt. At her death 35 Hen. VIII. she held this manor and hundred, and the advowson of two chantries in the church of Frome.<sup>c</sup> Robert, son and heir of the said Eleanor, by Edward Leversege her former husband, succeeded to the lands, and died seized thereof 29 Aug. 3 Edw. VI. leaving issue William his son and heir. In the inquisition taken after his decease, it was found that the lands were extended, and in extent for five hundred marks not yet satisfied.<sup>d</sup> William Leversege, son and heir of Robert, lived at Vallis-house in the time of Queen Elizabeth, and from him the manor and hundred of Frome descended to Edmund Leversege, esq; who 3 Jac. I. sold part thereof, being the manor of East-Woodlands, together with all his lands in East-Woodlands, West-Woodlands, Wall-Marsh, Clink, and in the forest of Selwood, to Sir Thomas Vavasour, knt. who in the 8th year of that reign sold the same to Sir Thomas Thynne, knt. From Sir Thomas these possessions, with many others, descended to his son and heir Sir Henry Frederick Thynne, created a baronet 17 Car. I. Whose eldest son Sir Thomas was created baron Thynne of Warminster, and Viscount Weymouth, 34 Car. II. and was succeeded by his cousin Thomas Thynne, father of Thomas Lord Viscount Weymouth, the present possessor. His Lordship's arms are, Barry of ten, *or* and *fable*.

But the other parts of the Leversege estates in Frome, consisting of the manors of Frome-Branch and Vallis, and the hundred of Frome, continued in that family till the year 1706, when Roger Leversege, who was the last of the male line, devised them to Lionel Seaman, esq; who had married Frances his only daughter. Mr. Seaman at his death devised the same to his relation the Rev. Lionel Seaman, D. D. vicar of this parish, who in 1751 sold them to John Earl of Cork and Orrery; from whom they descended to Hamilton his son, who dying without issue in 1764, they passed to Edmund his half brother, the present Earl of Cork and Orrery, whose arms are, Party per bend, crenelle, *argent* and *gules*.

VALLIS-HOUSE, the ancient seat of the Leverseges, is situated about a mile westward from the town, and is converted into a farm-house. It is called in the old records, *Falois*, *Faleis*, *Valeis*, *la Valaise*, and *la Valice*, all which are a corruption of *la Falaize*, an old French word signifying a bank or sloping hill. Very near the house there is a delightful romantick vale, called Vallis-bottom, deep, narrow, and winding in a serpentine direction through the parish of Elm to Mells. The sides are steep, and full of craggy projecting rocks, intermixed with trees and coppice-wood.

The manor of WEST-WOODLANDS was parcel of the ancient possessions of the abbey of Cirencester in Gloucestershire; and, after the dissolution of that house, was, together with the advowson, presentation, donation, free disposition, and right of patronage of

<sup>a</sup> Efc.<sup>b</sup> Inq. post Mort.<sup>c</sup> Coles's Escheats.<sup>d</sup> Ibid.



the vicarage of the church of Frome, parcel also of the said monastery, granted by James I. by letters patent, bearing date the fourth year of his reign, to Sir Thomas Thynne, of Longleat.

Within the last-mentioned manor was another small manor called *LANGLEY*, or *ST. ALGARS*, from a chapel formerly there dedicated to that saint; wherein his bones were buried, and "of late tymes (says Leland) superstitiously soute of the folisch com-mune people." This manor is now consolidated with the West-Woodlands.

The manor of *KEYFORD*, or *CAYFORD*, is also within this parish, and is taken notice of in the Conqueror's survey:

"Norman holds of Turstin [Fitz-Rolf] *CHAIVERT*. Leuedai held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for half a hide. The arable is half a carucate, which is in demesne, with four cottagers. There are four acres of meadow, and four acres of pasture. It is worth seven shillings."

In the time of Edward I. this village was the possession of William Polayn;<sup>1</sup> but afterwards became the property of the ancient family of Twyniho, who had their names from Twinhoe or Twiney in this county, where they had estates. Of this family, who bore for their arms, a chevron between three lapwings *sable*, there were several branches, seated at Steeple-Ashton in Wiltshire, Shipton and Cirencester in Gloucestershire, and Turnworth in Dorsetshire. They resided at Cayford so early as the reign of Henry IV. and held that manor of the lords of Frome. The following curious petition in parliament will shew how one of them was served in the time of Edward IV.

"To the right wyse and discrete Communes in this present Parliament assembled:

"*LAMENTABLY* in most pituouse and humblewise, complayneth and shewith unto your grete wifdomes Roger Twynyho, coufyn and heire of Ankerette, late the wiff of Wiliam Twynyho, of Cayforde in the counte of Somerset, Squyer; that is to say, son of John, son of the seid Wiliam and Ankarette. That where the said Ankarette, the Saturday the xiithe day of the moneth of Apryll, in the XVIIth yere of the reigne of our most dredde Sovereigne Lorde the Kyng that now ys, was in her manoyr at Cayforde afforeseid, in Godd's pease and our said Sovereigne Lord's, one Richard Hyde, late of Warwyk in the counte of Warwyk Gentleman, and Roger Strugge, late of Bekehampton in the counte of Somerset, Towker, accompayned with diverse riotouse and mysghoverned perfoines, in maner of werre and insurrection, arraied and assembled to the nombre of XXIIII per-fones and moo, by the commaundement of George Duke of Clarence, of his subtile conjected ymaginations, withoute grounde or mater, ayenst all right, trouth, and conscience, entending the utter distruction and deth of the said Ankarette, came to Cayforde afforeseid, aboute II of the klokke after none, the day and yere aboveseid; and then and there with grete fury and wodenesse, ayenst the Kyng's pease, the house of the seid Ankarette with force bracke and entered, and the same Ankarette (beyng of goode name and fame) then and ther toke and emprisoned, withoute writte, warraunt, or any other laufull auctorite; and immediatly fro thens the seid Ankarette so in preson, the same day with grete violence caryed and conveyed unto the cite of Bathe in the same counte, without abode, not sufferyng her to tary in her owne house to take eny convenient ease, nor so that eny of her servauntes mought accompany her, and in semblable duresse her caried and conveyed from Bathe biforeseid, the Sonday then next folouying, to the towne of Circeter in the shire of

<sup>1</sup> Itin. vii. 106.

<sup>2</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>3</sup> Peramb. Forestæ de Selwode.

Glouceter,



Glouceter, and from thens in like wise conveid her to the towne of Warrewyk in the counte of Warrewyk, and theder broughte her the Monday then next folowyng aboute VIII of the clokke at afternone, which towne of Warrewyk is in distaunce from the seid manoyr of Cayforde LXX miles. And the seid riotouse perfoness, by the commaundement of the said Duke, immediately then ther toke fro the seid Ankarette all such jewelx, money, godes, and catelx, as she there hadd; and also then and ther, in the said Duke's behalf, as though he had used a kyng's power, commaunded and streitely charged Thomas Delalynde, Squyer, and Edith his wiff, doughter of the seid Ankarette, and other their servauntes, which folowed the seid Ankarette to have attended upon her, to avoyde from the said towne of Warwyk, appon payne of deth, and to logge them at Stratforde apon Avyn that nyght, which is VI mile fro thens; by force of which commaundement, and for fere of deth, the seid Thomas Delalynde and Edith his wiff, and ther seid other servauntes, then departed from thens, withoute abode or taryeng, not suffred to speke with the seid Ankarette, and so left her alone; and the seid Duke the same Ankarette in such prisson and dureffe wrongfully there kept unto the houre of IX before none, the Tuesday the next morrowe then folouyng, that is to wite, the Tuesday next after the closyng of Pasche; and then with like force and violence causid the said Ankarette to be broughte to the Gylthale at Warrewyk beforeseid, bifore diverse of the Kyngs Justices of the pease of the seid counte of Warrewyk, ther then sittyng in the Kyngs generall cessions of pease in the same counte: and then and ther the seid Duke, in accomplishyng of his seid subtile conjected ymaginations, untruly and ungoodly, ayenst all trouthe and conscience, labored and causid her to be endited by the name of Ankarette Twynneowe, late of Warrewyk in the counte of Warr' wydowe, of sic that the seid Ankarette, late servaunt of George Duke of Clarence and Isabell his wiff, maliciously and dampnably entendyng the distruction and deth of the seid Isabell, at Warrewyk biforeseid, the Xth day of Octobre, the yere of the reigne of oure seid Sovereigne Lorde the XVIth, falsly, traiterously, and felonessly, yave unto the seid Isabell a venymouse drynke of ale myxt with poyson to drynke, to poyson and sle the seid Isabell, of the which drynke the seid Isabell sekenyd fro the seid Xth daye of Octobre, unto the Sonday next before the fest of the Natyvite of oure Lorde then next folowyng, which Sonday she then and ther therof dyed; and so the seid Ankarette the same Isabell the seid Sonday ther falsly, traterously, and felonously slewe. And incontinent the same day, the seid Justices therof arraned and put to answeere the seid Ankarette; wherappon she pleded that she was not therof gylty, and therappon by processe made by the seid Justices the same daye, a jurre appered, and founde the seid Ankarette gylty of the mater conteynid in the seid inditement, and therappon it was considered and demed by the seid Justices, that the seid Ankarette shulde be ladde from the barre ther, unto the Kyngs gaole of Warrewyk biforeseid, and from that gaole shulde be drawe thorowe the mydds of the seid towne of Warrewyk, unto the galowes of Myton, and ther appon the seid galowes to be hanged untill she wer dede; and commaunded the shiref of the seid shire ther then beyng, to do therof execution, and so he did: which enditement, triell, and judgement, were hadde, done, and youven, within thre houres of the seid Tuesday, the same Justices contynually in the same cession then ther sittyng, none adjournement of the seid cessions for that tyme hadde; a copie of alle which recorde is herto annexid. Which jurours, for fere and drede of grete menaces, and doute of losse of their lyves and godes, founde the seide verdict contrarie to their owne entents, trouthe, and conscience; in prove wherof, diverse of the same jurre, after the seid judgement yoven, came to the seid Ankarette, havyng grete remorse in their consciens, knowyng they hadde yoven an untrue verdyt in that behalf, humbly and pituously asked foryevenes therof of the said Ankarette. Please it youre seid grete wisdomes, consideryng the seide subtile conjected ymaginations of the seid Duke, as well as his grete myght and strenght, the unlaufull takyng, dureffe, empysonament, conveyance, and caryng of the seid Ankarette thorowe the seid III severall shires, the seid inordynat hasty processe and judgement, and the lamentable and pituouse conveyance to deth, and deth of the same Ankarette, and the gode, vertuous, and true disposition of her all the tyme of her lyff, as it is openly knowen within the seid counte of Somerset, and the countes therto adjoynyng, where



where she was the more parte of her lyff duellyng and conversaunt; to praie the Kyng oure Sovereigne Lorde, to ordeyne and stablyshe, by th' assent of the Lords Spirituelx and Temporelx in this present Parliament assembled, and by auctorite of the same Parliament, that the recorde of the seid inditement, the processe therappon made, the verdict and jugement therappon yoven, and all thyngs dependyng appon the same, and the recorde therof made, be cassed, adnulled, voyde, repealed, and of no force nor of none effecte. And forasmoche as all the premises were done by the commaundement, myght, and strenght of the seid Duke, and in no otherwyse, that therfor it be ordeigned by the seid auctorite, that none of the seid Justices, Shiref of the seid shire, nor the Undersherif of the same, nor their ministres, nor eny other persone, be sued, vexed, nor greved, for the takyng, empysonament, jugement, nor execution of the seid Ankarette." Rot. Parl. 17 Edw. IV.

Which petition being read in Parliament, answer was returned, "*Soit fait come il est desire.*"

There was a church in Frome in very early days, dedicated to St. John,<sup>a</sup> of the revenues whereof the following account is given us in the Norman Record:

"Reinbald [the priest] holds the church of FROME, with eight carucates of land. In demesne are two carucates and a half, and four servants, and eight villaines, and twelve cottagers, with six ploughs. There is a mill of five shillings rent, and thirty-five acres of meadow. Wood six furlongs long, and two furlongs broad. It is worth six pounds."<sup>x</sup>

This Reinbald was chancellor to King Edward the Confessor, and a great favourite with King William, who gave him large possessions in England, and an estate called from him *Reinberville*, near Rouen in Normandy.<sup>y</sup> He held also divers other offices both in the time of Edward and William, and in his clerical line was dean of the prebendal college at Cirencester in Gloucestershire, founded by Alwyn, a Saxon, in the time of King Egbert,<sup>z</sup> in the church of which he was buried, and his monument of white marble remained till the time of Henry VIII.<sup>a</sup> On his death, all the lands which he had possessed resorted to the crown, and King Henry I. in the thirty-fourth year of his reign, granted the rectory of Frome, as also Standerwick, Milborne-Port, Marston-Bigot, and Wellow, with divers lands in this part of the county, to the abbey of Austin Canons at Cirencester in Gloucestershire, which he had founded on the ruins of the old Saxon college above-mentioned.<sup>b</sup> In 1292 this rectory was valued at twenty-five pounds, and the vicarage at eleven marks and a half. The abbot of Cirencester had a pension out of it, of twenty shillings.<sup>c</sup> 26 Hen. VIII. the vicarage was rated at twenty-two pounds.<sup>d</sup> Lord Weymouth is patron, and the Rev. John Rofs, D. D. bishop of Exeter, is the present incumbent.

The church stands in the southeast part of the town, and within the tithing and manor of the West-Woodlands. It is a large and handsome pile of building, one hundred and fifty-two feet long, and fifty-four wide; consisting of a nave, chancel, north and south ailes, four chapels, a vestry-room, and two porches. On the south

<sup>a</sup> See the ancient Survey of the manor.

<sup>x</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>y</sup> Annales Abbat. de Bec. MSS.

<sup>z</sup> Chronicon Abbat. Cirencest. MS. penes Edit.

<sup>a</sup> Leland's Itin. v. 66.

<sup>b</sup> Tanner's Notitia Monastica.

<sup>c</sup> Taxat. Temporal.

<sup>d</sup> Lib. Valorum.

side of the entrance to the nave from the chancel, stands a quadrangular tower, with a handsome stone spire; the whole one hundred and twenty feet high. This tower contains eight bells, a clock, and chimes.

In a chapel built by the Leverfedges, are several memorials of that, as well as of the Cork family, whose property it now is. In the middle of it, on an open tomb, lies the effigy of a man almost naked, and in an emaciated appearance. On an adjoining stone is this inscription:—"W. L. Recordare Creatoris tui diebus juventutis tuæ."

Arms, a leopard's head jessant fleur de lis, (the arms more recently used by the family of Branch, and adopted by the Leverfedges) impaling, a griffin segreant.

On another stone near it:—"Rogeri Leverfidge, armig. exuviæ hic deponuntur, qui obiit 23 die Februarij, Anno Domini 170 $\frac{1}{2}$ , ætatis suæ 63." Arms: Leverfedge, as before, impaling on a chevron between three martlets as many mullets.

On the next stone:—"Reconduntur hic cineres Franciscæ, unicæ Rogeri Leverfedge, armigeri, filiæ; Edmundi Seaman generosi nuper uxoris, quæ obiit vigesimo die Decembris, Anno Domini 1726, ætatis suæ 44. Hic etiam jacet sepultum corpus prædicti Edmundi Seaman, gen. fato qui occubuit vicesimo die Septembris, Anno Domini 1730, ætatis suæ 50." Arms: On an escutcheon between three pole-axes, Branch, impaling Leverfedge.

On a flat stone within the same chapel:—"Margaret Countess of Cork and Orrery, died Nov. 28, 1758, aged 48. Charles Lord Viscount Dungarvon died Sept. 15, 1759, aged 30. John Earl of Cork and Orrery died Nov. 16, 1762, aged 55."

On another plain stone:—"Hamilton Earl of Cork and Orrery died Jan. 17, 1764, aged 34. Anne Countess of Cork and Orrery died Dec. 11, 1785, aged 43. Richard John Lord Dungarvon, Honourable Hamilton Boyle, died infants."

Near the northwest corner of the church is a mural monument of stone, having an open pediment, at the bottom of which lie the effigies of two infants hand in hand; on the tablet this inscription:—"Near this place lie the bodies of Henry Bull, gent. who died the 3d of August 1738, aged 59 years; and Margaret his wife, who died the 26th of July, 1752, aged 71 years. Here also lieth the body of James Bull, their son, who died the 11th of February 1747, aged 30 years. Together with six others of their children, who all died infants." Arms: *Gules*, three bulls' heads cabossed, *or*.

In the principal aisle is a brass plate with this memorial:

"Pray for the soules of Henry Champeney, squyr, and Jane his wife, whyche Henry decessed the xiiij daye of August the yere of oure Lord m v vj, on whose soules Ihu have mercy. Amen."

In a small chapel by the north aisle is a stately marble monument, inscribed,—  
"Here lyeth the body of George Locke, of this place, gent. who departed this life the third day of November, A. D. 1735, and in the 72d year of his age. To whose memory his sorrowful widow hath erected this monument. Also, here lyeth the body of Susannah, the wife of the said George Locke, who departed this life Feb. 18, 1751, aged



aged 90 years." Arms: Per fesse, *azure* and *or*, a pale counterchanged, three hawks with wings endorsed of the last, impaling *or*, on a fesse engrailed *azure*, between three horses' heads erased *sable*, as many fleurs de lis of the first.

In the windows of this chapel are the following coats in painted glass. 1. *Sable*, a horse erect, *argent*, bridled, *or*; impaling, a chevron between three dolphins embowed, *argent*; on a chief *gules* a leopard's head jessant fleurs de lis *or*. 2. The horse as before, impaling, *argent*, a pillar between two human heads respecting *or*. 3. The horse, impaling a text *℞* and a bell *or*, being a device for the name of *Cabell*, a family who had possessions in this parish.

On the south side of the chancel is another small chapel, which belonged to the family of Smith, formerly of this parish, and in which divers of them lie interred.

Robert Smith, gent. died July 13, 1703; Dorothy his daughter, Sept. 9, 1700; and John Smith, of Stoney-Littleton, esq; Jan. 9, 1768.

There are these arms in a window of this chapel, viz. 1. *Argent*, on a chevron, *sable*, between three lapwings proper, a mullet of the first; impaling, tierce in giron arondi, *argent*, *or*, and *gules*. 2. Chevron and lapwings as before, impaling, *ermine*, a bar *sable*. 3. Quarterly, first and third, *argent*, a bend *gules*, on a chief of the second, two mullets *or*; second and fourth, *gules*, a bar *or*, between six martlets, 3, 2, and 1. 4. *Ermine*, a bar *sable*, impaling, *vert*, a nautilus *or*.

In another chapel on the north side of the chancel, on a flat stone, whereon were figures and an inscription in brass, (now removed) are arms as follow: 1. Quarterly, first and third, a lion rampant; second and fourth, on a chevron three crosses moline. 2. On a chevron between three martlets five bezants.

In the vestry-room, on a monument of alabaster, are the effigies of a man and woman kneeling, and on two tablets below, inscriptions to the memory of the Rev. Anthony Methwin, vicar of this church, who died July 6, 1640, aged 66; and of Jane his wife, who died March 2, 1640, aged 61. Arms: first and fourth, *argent*, three wolves' heads erased proper, 2 and 1. Second and third *argent*, a chevron *sable*, between a cross pateé *gules* in chief, and a heart of the last in base, impaling, *sable*, a lion passant *argent*.

Adjoining to the east end of the church is a burial place wherein lies the body of Bishop Kenn, who died A. D. 1711, whilst on a visit to his friend and patron Lord Weymouth, at Longleat, in which noble mansion he had spent the greatest part of his life after his deprivation of the see of Bath and Wells.

To the church of Frome appertained divers chantries, endowed with lands of considerable value.

22 Edw. III. a licence was granted by the King to Robert Kaynes, Thomas the son of Lucas Webb, John Honywood, and John the son of William de Whatcombe, to give two messuages and seventeen acres of land in the parish of Frome to a certain chaplain to perform divine service in the chapel of the blessed Virgin Mary of Frome-Brauch, every day for ever.\*

\* Inq. ad quod Dam. 22 Edw. III.

1 Ric. II. John de la Mare, *knt.* gave one messuage, and one acre of land; John la Wode, one messuage and two acres; Walter Bychewode and Joan his wife, one messuage and two acres; John Whitcomb, two acres; and Argentine Horsleghe, fourteen acres, all situated in Frome; to Laurence Walshe, chaplain of the chantry of St. John in the parish church of Frome for ever.<sup>1</sup> John Lyrpole was the last incumbent of this chantry, and had allowed him in 1553, a pension of five pounds.<sup>2</sup>

The chantry of St. Andrew had lands in Frome, Rodden, and Nunney de la Mare;<sup>3</sup> the last incumbent, John Burley, had a pension of five pounds.<sup>4</sup> 5 Edw. VI. this chantry, and that of St. John the Baptist, were held by Sir John Thynne, *knt.* and Laurence Hyde, in soccage.<sup>5</sup>

The chantry of St. Catherine had lands in Frome given it 4 Ric. II.<sup>1</sup> Its last incumbent was John Frye, who at its dissolution was sent away with a pension of five pounds.<sup>2</sup>

Within that part of the parish which is called the Woodlands, about three miles southward from the town, stands another church or chapel, called the New-Church; which was built in the year 1712, by Thomas Lord Viscount Weymouth, and endowed with sixty pounds per annum, out of an estate at Pennard in this county, to such minister as should officiate there, to be by him, and his successors to the estate at Longleat, nominated and appointed. This endowment was made by his Lordship, by virtue of and under the direction of the last will and testament of his deceased brother, the Hon. Henry Frederick Thynne; the said Viscount himself augmenting the stipend with thirty pounds per annum, and also with five hundred pounds, which sum was by his executors laid out in the purchase of stock in the funds, and vested in the hands of trustees. The interest thereof was paid to the minister for some years; but in the year 1752, the trustees with 373*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* part of the said 500*l.* purchased an estate called Codrington's, lying within the parish of Frome, which now lets at 21*l.* per annum, and settled the clear profits thereof also on the minister of the said church. The first minister appointed to it was the Rev. Mr. Beauchamp in 1714. The Rev. John Ross, D. D. is the present incumbent.

The church is a handsome building, sixty-eight feet long, thirty-four broad, and twenty-eight high. At the west end is a square tower and octagonal spire, seventy feet high, with two bells.

The Woodlands around this church are now the only part of the ancient forest of Selwood, which bears any resemblance to its former state; and have been, within the memory of man, the notorious asylum of a desperate clan of banditti, whose depredations were a terror to the surrounding parishes. One of their evil practices, and which perhaps was far from being the worst, was that of coining money; but the cutting down large tracts of wood, establishing small farms, and building the church, have been the means of destroying their haunts, and obliging the possessors to seek subsistence in honest and useful labour.

<sup>1</sup> Esc. 1 Ric. II.

<sup>2</sup> Willis's Hist. of Abbies, ii. 202.

<sup>3</sup> Pat. 6 Hen. V.

<sup>4</sup> Willis.

<sup>5</sup> Ter. Sydenham.

<sup>1</sup> Pat. 4 Ric. II.

<sup>2</sup> Willis.



The name of this forest is very expressive of its size and consequence in ancient times, *Sel* signifying in the Saxon language great, and *For* a wood; in like manner as *Silbury-Hill* in Wiltshire signifies the great barrow or hill; and *Silchester* in Hampshire, the great city; the epithet *Sel* being applied to these places by way of eminence and distinction. This forest lay at the eastern extremity of the county, on the confines of Wiltshire, and extended itself southward from Frome towards Dorsetshire. In the time of Edward the first it was formally perambulated by commissioners appointed for that purpose, and its bounds were ascertained to be as follow: "They began at *Suthbrubam* bridge, which is the farthest water of the *Bryw*, and thence proceeded along the road to the *Barwe*; and thence along a certain road to *Bruke House*; and thence leaving the said house on the right hand to the gate of the King's-hall; and thence by *Haybam* to *Frome-Water*; and thence along a certain water, leaving it on the right to *Waledich* bridge; and thence along the skirts of *Selewode* thicket to *Burtyngburgh*, above *Noble* house; and thence leaving that house on the right hand to *Wytecofte*; and thence to *Radeneye*, on the confines of the counties of Somerset and Wyltes; and thence by a certain water-course to *Weremenesyre* wood; and from the said wood by *Trencham-mouth*, along a road called *Hunterfweye* to *la Gabere*; and thence by *Balmeton* wood, leaving it on the right, to a place called *Kyngeffecke*; and thence along a way to *Penburi*, leaving all *Norton* wood on the right, which wood is in the county of Somerset; and thence to *Penne*; and thence along the King's way by the middle of *Bitewode*, as a small stream called *Standebruk*, coming from *Staverdale* mill, directs; and thence leaving the said mill on the right, along a road without *Forshefe* park to the east; and thence by the highway to *Brubam* church, leaving it on the left; and thence to *Suthbrubam* bridge, where the bounds first began."<sup>a</sup>

#### Keepers of this Forest:

William de Wrotham, }  
Richard de Wrotham, } in the time of King John.

William de Placetis, 35 Hen. III.

Richard de Placetis, 2 Edw. I.

Sabina Peche, 24 Edw. I.

Nicholas Peche, 17 Edw. II.

Richard Peche, }  
Thomas Peche, } 6 Edw. III.

Matthew Peche, 9 Edw. III.

Sir Richard D'Amori, knt. 10 Edw. III.

Matthew de Clivedon, 18 Edw. III.

Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, 34 Edw. III.

Sir John Arundel, knt. 3 Ric. II.

Reginald Lord Cobham, 4 Hen. IV.

Edmund Lord Ferrers, of Chartley, was woodward 14 Hen. VI.

Sir John St. Loe, knt. 26 Hen. VI.

Sir Walter Hungerford, knt. 27 Hen. VI.

James Earl of Ormond, 38 Hen. VI.

<sup>a</sup> Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

The office was afterwards united to the crown, and there continued till the beginning of the reign of Charles I. who granted commissions to certain Lords of his Privy Council and others, for the disafforesting the forest of Selwood; empowering them to deal, agree, compound, bargain, and contract, as well for the disafforesting, as for all the woods, ground, and soil, of the said forest, with all the deer therein, in such manner as they should think most convenient to his Majesty's profit. By virtue of which authority, those commissioners contracted with the lords and commoners of the manors within the forest, in manner following, viz. That his Majesty and his successors should have, hold, and enjoy, one third part of the several wastes and commonable grounds within the said forest; that one other third part should be held and enjoyed by the lords and owners of the soil; and the other third part should be left to the several commoners, having right of common for depasturing their cattle.

It was in this great forest that King Alfred convened a general council of his nobles preparatively to his memorable attack upon the Danes, and his signal victory over them at *Æthendune*, or Edington in Wiltshire.<sup>a</sup>

There was a house of Lepers in some part of this forest, to which Hugh de Wells, bishop of Lincoln, bequeathed in his last will and testament, made A. D. 1212, a legacy of three marks.<sup>b</sup>

Several charities have at different times been conferred on the parishioners of Frome.

In the time of Edward the fourth, William Leverfedge, esq; founded in the town of Frome, an alms-house for poor widows, and endowed the same with lands amounting to the yearly value of three pounds ten shillings.

Mr. Thomas Smith gave 100l. that fourteen widows in that alms-house might annually receive the sum of five shillings each on St. Thomas-day.

The Rev. Richard Jenkins gave also to the said charity 10l. Which sums were laid out in lands, now amounting to the yearly rent of 8l. 10s.

John A'Court gave 20s. annually to the fourteen widows, payable out of a tenement in Nunney.

Jane Hippie gave land of the value of 6l. 10s. per annum, for the same purpose.

John Ash gave half the yearly rent of three houses in Beckington, value 3l. 16s. towards clothing the fourteen widows.

James Wickham and Jane Hippie gave to the same foundation, land of the yearly value of 32l. 2s. 6d.

Sufannah Locke gave land to the same purpose, of the yearly value of 14l. 12s. 6d.

Richard Coombe gave land of the yearly value of 2l. 3s. 6d.

Betty Hippie and others gave fundry sums of money, with which lands of the annual value of 6l. 10s. were purchased, for the use of the said fourteen widows.

<sup>a</sup> Vide Asser. Annal. rer. gest. Ælfridi Mag. Et Chron. Saxon. A. D. 878.

<sup>b</sup> Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.



Alexander Stafford gave to them sundry houses in the parish of St. Milford, London, amounting to the yearly value of 28l.

Mr. Thomas Jeffer gave one hundred pounds to the poor of this parish, the interest thereof to be paid on St. Thomas day, to such as do not receive relief otherwise.

John Wadman gave for the same purpose 2l. 10s. annually, payable out of lands in this parish.

Jane Methwyn gave to fourteen poor men, and ten poor widows, a sixpenny loaf on every Good-Friday, payable out of a house in Bristol.

Sundry benefactions were laid out for the use of the charity-school, in the purchase of land and stock in the funds, of the yearly value of 62l.

Mrs. Hippie gave money towards apprenticing boys out of the charity school, with which stock was purchased of the annual value of 15l.

The charity-school stands near the bridge, and is a large handsome freestone building, with a turret and clock on the top. About the year 1720, a subscription was set on foot within the town, for raising a sum of money to build a school-house, &c. which soon amounted to 1087l. and together with some former donations, was found sufficient for building and endowing the said school. The building thereof was carried on under the patronage and direction of Mr. James Wickham, attorney at law, of the town of Frome, who became a principal trustee. In 1728, certain lands were purchased by the said James Wickham, and he soon after dying, such lands were by Mr. John Wickham, his brother and heir at law, granted to twenty trustees; the rents and profits thereof to be applied to the clothing and teaching twenty, or as many more boys as they should think fit, to read and write, and to be educated in the knowledge and practice of the christian religion, as professed and taught in the Church of England; and such other things as should be further suitable to their condition, and to the paying a master in such manner as the trustees should think fit. In 1748 the trustees found it expedient to apply to the Court of Chancery for a decree, the more firmly to establish this charity, which was readily granted.

The school is now endowed with twenty-four pounds per annum salary to the master, a school-house, &c. for teaching twenty poor boys reading, writing, arithmetick, &c. who are clothed and thus educated four years, and then apprenticed out to useful trades, by monies arising from the benefactions before mentioned. This school is now governed by Mr. Abraham Crocker. Adjoining to it is the Widow's Alms-House, referred to in the foregoing list of charities.

Here is also a free-school, of the foundation of Edward VI. endowed with six pounds a year, to which about five pounds annually have since been added.

The Rev. Mr. Langham bequeathed 60l. towards erecting an altar-piece in the church of Frome; other inhabitants contributed about 100l. more; and the altar was erected and the chancel repaired and beautified in the year 1762.

Mr. John A'Court of Rodden, gave the treble bell, 1684.

Mrs. Anne Smith gave one brass candlestick, 1685.

The Rev. Mr. Prigge gave 20l. to be laid out for a communion flagon; and 10l. to be laid out in bibles for poor families.

Mrs. Joan Avury gave twelve buckets.

The christenings in this church from January 1778 to January 1785, were 1347, being on an annual average 192. The burials during the same period 1060, being annually on an average nearly 151.

Joseph Glanvill, the noted author of the book on witchcraft, was some time vicar of this parish.

## B E C K I N G T O N

**I**S a village consisting of several streets, situated in the turnpike-road between Bath and Frome, from the former of which it is distant ten miles, and from the latter three. It was formerly a town of considerable importance, and carried on a large manufacture of woollen cloths, of which at this day about seven hundred are made here yearly.

The name of this place may have been derived either from the Saxon words *Beacen* a beacon, and *Ton*, a town; or from *Becc*, a torrent or rivulet; or from *Bece*, the beech-tree. Bishop Beckington, who was a native of the place,<sup>a</sup> seems to have favoured the first etymology; having for his device, still to be seen in many parts of Wells, a beacon with a tun or vessel. It is called in Domesday-Book *Bechintone*, and is surveyed as the property of Roger Arundel, to the following effect:

“Roger himself holds BECHINTONE. Ailuert held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for ten hides. The arable is ten carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and nine villanes, and seven cottagers having six ploughs. There is a mill of twenty shillings rent, and twelve acres of meadow, and eight acres of pasture, and one hundred acres of wood. It was worth when he received it ten pounds, now six pounds.”<sup>b</sup>

Its most considerable possessors, after the Conquest, was the family of Erleigh, or de Erlega, so called from a lordship near Reading in Berkshire, who had large possessions in this county, viz. the manors of Beckington, Durston, Babcary, Michael's-church, the manor and hundred of North-Petherton, and the manor of Somerton-parva, denominated from them, Somerton-Erle, or Erleigh. The first of the name that appears in this county is John de Erlegh, who 7 Hen. II. paid five marks for the scutage of his lands in this county.<sup>c</sup> This John died 11 Hen. II. and in the same year Adela his widow paid the same scutage.<sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup> “*Beckingtona mihi dedit ortum; Balnea, Fontes,*

<sup>b</sup> “*Falces.*” Lelandi Comment. de Scriptor. Britann. p. 447. See of this prelate in Wells.

<sup>c</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>d</sup> Rot. Pip. 7 Hen. II.

<sup>e</sup> Ibid.



He was succeeded by William de Erleigh his son, who is certified to hold a knight's fee in capite of the King, and that by his fee he had a right to be his chamberlain.\* This William was the founder of a priory at Buckland in this county, to which (among divers other property) he gave the church of Beckington.\*

John de Erleigh, son and heir of William, 6 Ric. I. paid scutage for his lands in this county and Berkshire. 1 Joh. he held the manor and hundred of North-Petherton, at an annual rent to the King of one hundred shillings.

William de Erleigh his eldest son, 1 Joh. paid scutage for lands he had in Berkshire and Somersetshire, in his father's life-time. He left two sons, John and Henry, of whom the former married Ifolda, (who survived him) and died without issue 12 Hen. III. whereupon Henry his brother became his heir. He was sheriff of this county and Dorset that same year. This Henry married two wives, 1. Egelina de Candos, by whom he had a son called Philip. 2. Claricia, by whom he had John and Bartholomew.

Philip de Erleigh died soon after 8 Edw. I. leaving issue by Rosa his wife, daughter and heir of Peter de Marisco, and Maud his wife, lady of the manor of Babcary, John, Philip, and Roland; and a daughter married to Richard de Acton. His wife survived him, and had to her second husband Sir Geffrey de Wroxall.

Which John de Erleigh, eldest son of Philip, was in the Scottish wars in the reign of Edw. I. and 9 and 16 Edw. I. was sheriff of this county and Dorset; and 2 and 6 Edw. II. was knight of the shire for Somerset. He died 17 Edw. II. and was succeeded by his son John, leaving another son called Roland.

This John died 11 Edw. III. being then seized of the manors of Beckington, Somerton-Erle, Durston, Babcary, Michael's-Church, the manor and hundred of North-Petherton, and several other lands in this county; leaving by Elizabeth his wife, John his eldest son, then four years old, Richard, and three daughters, viz. Catherine prioress of Buckland, Elizabeth wife of Sir John Stafford, and Alice wife of Sir Nicholas Paines, knt.

John his son and heir was a knight, and 40 Edw. III. attended the Black Prince into Spain, and was present at the battle of Naziers, and several other engagements in that kingdom, in one of which he was wounded and taken prisoner; and being put to a great ransom, was forced to sell the best part of his ancient inheritance. By Margaret daughter of Sir Guy de Brien, knight of the garter, he left issue John, Richard, and Philip, and three daughters.

John his eldest son succeeded in this manor of Beckington. He was also a knight, and married Isabel, daughter of Sir John Pavely, by whom he left one only daughter his heir, married to John second son of Sir Richard St. Maur, knt. afterwards to Sir Walter Sondes, knt. and thirdly to Sir William Cheney, knt. She died 21 Hen. VI.

The said John St. Maur was succeeded by John his eldest son, who, having married Elizabeth daughter of Sir Thomas Broke, was father of Sir Thomas St. Maur; who, by Philippa daughter of Sir Edmund Hungerford, had another John; which John

\* Lib. Feod.

\* Cart. Antiq.

married Elizabeth daughter of Sir Richard Choke; and had three children, viz. Sir William St. Maur, who succeeded him; and two daughters, Margaret wife of William Bampfylde of Poltimore, and Anne wife to Robert Stawel, esq.

Which Sir William St. Maur married Margaret daughter of Sir Richard Edgecombe, knt. and was father of Margaret his heir, who dying without children, the descendants of his sisters became his heirs, which were the families of Stawel and Bampfylde. The manor of Beckington became the possession of Bampfylde.

8 Edw. II. John de Erleigh bore on his seal three escallops;<sup>f</sup> which arms were used by his descendants within a bordure engrailed, and tinctured *gules* and *argent*.

In the beginning of the last century this manor was purchased by John Ashe, esq; who possessed a very large estate in this and the adjoining county of Wilts; and lies buried with several of his family in a vault under the south aisle of the parish church of Beckington. At his death in 1658, this manor, with that of Teffont-Evias in the county of Wilts, devolved to John Ashe, esq; his second son, who devised it by will to his nephew John Methuen, son of his sister Grace, wife of Paul Methuen, esq. This John Methuen was Lord Chancellor of Ireland in the reigns of King William the Third and Queen Anne; and was frequently employed in embassies to Portugal. He was succeeded in this manor by his only surviving son, the late Right Honourable Sir Paul Methuen, knight of the Bath; a person eminently distinguished by his embassies abroad to the Emperors of Germany and Morocco; and the Kings of Spain, Portugal, and Sardinia; and filled with equal honour at home many important offices as secretary of state, treasurer of the household, &c. In the year 1709, he sold this manor to his uncle Anthony Methuen, esq; whose grandson, Paul Methuen, of Corsham in Wiltshire, esq; is the present possessor.

The manor-house still bears the name of *Seymour's-Court*, from its old inhabitants. There was formerly a chapel here near the Old Court, which the common people thought had once been an hermitage or cell;<sup>g</sup> and in a field about a quarter of a mile from the house, called Mount-Pleasant, were dug up, about twenty years ago, several human skeletons, the innocuous tenants of some long-forgotten cemetery.

At the north end of the town of Beckington, in a deep vale, sinking immediately from the high road to Bath, stands an old house called *Cliffords*; once the residence of that family, from whom it had its name.

The living of Beckington is rectorial. It was appropriated to the priory of Buckland, and rated in 1292 at seventeen marks and a half.<sup>h</sup> It lies in the deanery of Frome; William Sainsbury, esq; is patron, and the Rev. John Evans the present incumbent. The Prior and Brethren of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem had from this church an annual pension of twenty shillings.<sup>i</sup>

The church is dedicated to St. Gregory,<sup>k</sup> and is a substantial ancient structure, (several of the window-arches being finished with zig-zag mouldings) consisting of a

<sup>f</sup> Seals from ancient deeds.

<sup>g</sup> Notes taken 1671.

<sup>h</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

<sup>i</sup> Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

<sup>k</sup> Eton says St. George.



nave, chancel, two side ailes, and a vestry-room leaded; with two porches tiled. At the west end is an embattled tower, with a clock and six bells.

On the north side of the chancel lie the effigies of John St. Maur, and Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Sir Richard Choke; and on a brass plate in the floor is the following inscription:—"Hic jacet Johes Seyntmaur, armig. et Elizabetha uxor ejus, qui quidem Johes obiit v<sup>o</sup> die Octobr. A. Dñi. millmo cccclxxv. Cujus aie ppetuet Deus. Amen."

In a pew within the east aile, belonging to Paul Methuen, esq; is this memorial:

"Pray for the sowles of John Compton, and Edyth his wife, which John decessed the xiii day of October the yeare of our Lord Mccccx, upon whose sowles Jhu have mercy. Amen."

John Cooper, ancestor of the Coopers earls of Shaftesbury, being of this place, by his last will and testament, made August 29, 1498, ordered his body to be buried before the high altar of St. John Baptist, in the church of St. Gregory of Bekynton, to which church he bequeathed the sum of forty shillings.<sup>1</sup>

Against the north wall of the north aile is a mural monument to the memory of Daniel, the poet, inscribed with the following words:—"Here lyes, expectinge the second coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the dead body of Samuell Danyell, esq; that excellent poet and historian; who was tutor to the Lady Anne Clifford in her youth, she that was sole daughter and heire to George Clifford, earl of Cumberland; who in gratitude to him erected this monument to his memory a long time after, when she was Countesse Dowager of Pembroke, Dorset, and Montgomery. He died in October, An. Dom. 1619." He was a great favourite in the court of James I. and succeeded Spenser as poet-laureat to Queen Elizabeth. He was author of a variety of pieces historical, dramatical, and miscellaneous, into all which he seems to have infused the refinements of a court, and in his language to have anticipated the elegant expressions of the present age.

On a flat stone in the chancel floor is the following inscription:—"Sub hoc faxo reconditum jacet corpus Alexandri Huish, hujus ecclesiæ olim rectoris, qui obiit decimo quinto die Aprilis MDCLXVIII." He was of the Huishes of Donniford, and grandson of William Huish of that place. He was one of the editors of the Polyglott Bible, and esteemed one of the most considerable men in Europe in all parts of learning, especially the knowledge of the Oriental languages. He was a great sufferer by the rebellion in the time of Charles I.

On another stone:—"Here lies the body of William Sainsbury, late rector of this parish, who died March 10, 1730, aged 45. Also Elizabeth his wife, who died March 13, 1752, aged 71. Eleanor Sainsbury, wife of William Sainsbury, rector of this parish, died March 10, 1772, aged 41. Also William Sainsbury, late rector of this parish, died July 8, 1778, aged 65."—Arms: Within a bordure engrailed, a bend fusilly.

<sup>1</sup> Ex Regist. Horne, in Cur. Prærog. Cant.

At the west end of the south aisle is a mural monument of white marble, inscribed, "James Edgell, gentleman, died the 21st day of June, Anno Dom. 1729, in the 71st year of his age. Harry Edgell, eldest son of James, is near this place also interred, who departed this life, which he steered through with honour and integrity, May 22, 1743, ætat. 43. Elizabeth, widow of Harry Edgell, died July 7, 1761, aged 53 years." Arms: *Argent*, on a chevron embattled *sable*, between three cinquefoils *gules*, as many bezants; impaling, *argent*, on a bend wavy, cottised *gules*, within a bordure *azure* bezanty, three lions' heads erased of the first.

The font is octagonal, supported by eight plain pilasters, surrounding a central shaft, all springing from an octagonal base.

This parish, including the hamlet of RIDGE, on the borders of Wilts, contains one hundred and eighty-six houses.

Thomas Webb, esq; in the 20th of Elizabeth, gave 5l. per annum to be distributed quarterly amongst the poorest and most needy inhabitants of this parish.

Christopher Brewer, in 1673, gave for the like purpose 2l. annually.

William Yerbury, in 1700, gave 5l. annually to be distributed amongst the poor in bread on every Friday for five weeks in Lent.

## B E R K L E Y

**I**S a small parish, three miles west of Frome, containing seventy-six houses, thirteen of which are situated near the church; ten others in the hamlet of OLDFORD; and the others are scattered throughout the parish. The number of inhabitants is four hundred and two. The lands are mostly pasture, the soil various; some parts being heavy clay, others stone-rush, and the rest a rich mellow loam, very fertile. The pasture worth from ten to thirty shillings per acre, the arable from eight to sixteen shillings.

The river Frome washes this parish on the north-west side, in its way from Frome to Beckington.

The manor of Berkley belonged at the Conquest to Roger Arundel, and is thus surveyed:

"Robert holds of Roger, *BERCHELEI*. Toui held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides and a half. The arable is three carucates. In demesne are two carucates, with one servant, and three villanes, and four cottagers, with one plough. There is a mill of twelve shillings and sixpence rent, and six acres of meadow, and seventy acres of wood. It was and is worth forty shillings."

\* Lib. Domesday.

This



This place was the ancient seat of the family of Fayroke, who resided at Fayroke in this parish; from whom by intermarriage it descended to the house of Carent or Carwent, so denominated from the town of Caer-Went in Wales, where they were more early resident. From this family it came by an heiress to the possession of the Newboroughs, of which ancient house the following account is given on a monumental stone in the parish church here, tracing its descent from the time of William the Conqueror to the year 1680.

“ Sacred to the memory of the family of the Newboroughs, descended from Roger de Bellomont, lord of Pont-Audemer in Normandy, and Adelina his wife, daughter to Waleran earl of Mellent in France, cousin and counsellor to William the Conqueror, with whom he came into England. Which Roger had two sons; Robert the elder was earl of Mellent and Leicester, and married Elizabeth, daughter to Hugh the Great, son to Henry the 1st of France. The second son was Henry de Novo-Burgo, (so called from a castle in Normandy where he was born) who was made earl of Warwick by the Conqueror; and that earldom continued in his posterity through several noble and royal branches, till it was extinct by the death of Ambrose Dudley, son to the Duke of Northumberland, in 1589. Henry de Novo-Burgo, second son to the said Henry earl of Warwick, settled in Dorset, where Roger his son founded the abbey of Byndon in 1172. From him in a lineal descent came John Newburgh, of Lulworth-Castle in Dorset, who married Alice, daughter of William Carwent of Fayroke, and widow of John Westbery of Berkley, and was possessed of this manor in 1459. Several of this family represented the county of Dorset in parliament.

“ In the reign of Henry VIII. Christian, daughter and heiress to Sir Roger Newburgh of Lulworth, a lineal descendant to the aforesaid John, carried off a great estate to the Lord Marney, whose daughter and coheirs married Thomas Howard, second son to the Duke of Norfolk, who was created Viscount Bindon. Thomas Newborough, cousin to Sir Roger, and heir male to this family, was the first who settled at Berkley, and was buried in this church in 1513; from him in a direct line descended Roger Newborough, the last of this name, who was buried here in 1680, whose eldest daughter and coheirs Anne married John Prowse, of Compton-Bishop, esq. She died in 1740, and is buried in that church. In honour to this family, now extinct, this inscription was placed here by Abigail, widow of John Prowse, son and heir to the above-named John Prowse and Anne Newborough, in the year 1751, when this church was rebuilt.”— The arms on this monument are, *Or*, three bends *azure* within a bordure engrailed *gules*. Newborough.

The last of the Prowse family was Thomas Prowse, esq; knight of the shire for this county, who died about the year 1767, leaving two daughters his coheirs; one of whom wedded Mr. Mordaunt, a gentleman descended from a collateral branch of the family of Mordaunts, earls of Peterborough; and the other, who now resides at Berkley, married in 1783 the Rev. John Methuen Rogers, LL. B. the present owner of this manor.

The residence of the Carents was at *Fayroke*, a manor they derived from the family of Fayroke, to which this ancient village (now depopulated) gave its name. It had

parochial rights and customs; but the benefice in 1460, on account of the smallness of its revenues, was, with the consent of William Carent, esq; patron of the church of Fayroke, and John Newburgh, in right of Alice his wife, patron of Berkley, united and annexed to the church of Berkley.<sup>b</sup>

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Frome, and in the gift of the Rev. Mr. Rogers; the present incumbent is the Rev. Ambrose Kent, D. D.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a very neat modern edifice, built in the year 1751. Its dimensions are forty-one feet square, and the roof twenty-one feet high. Over the centre of the building is an octagonal dome supported by four Ionic columns, and terminated by a sky-light. At the west side of the church is a neat tower with a ballustrade railing.

Near the chancel rails a flat stone bears the following inscription:—"Underneath lie the remains of Anne, wife of Nathaniel Kent, of Fulham in the county of Middlesex, gentleman, who died Oct. 1st, 1780, aged 47 years. This stone is not placed here from a vain desire to chronicle the dead, but to guard her ashes."

Without the church is a small mural monument erected to the memory of Roger Newburgh, esq; the last of that family, who died in 1680.

This parish gave birth and name to Alexander de Berkley, or Barcley, an elegant writer of the sixteenth century. He was educated at Oriel college in Oxford, and was one of the collegiate priests of St. Mary Ottery in Devonshire. He afterwards entered into the order of St. Benedict, and next became a Franciscan; he was also a monk of Ely, and on the dissolution of that monastery, was presented to the vicarage of Wokey in this county, and afterwards to that of Badow-Magna in the county of Essex. He had also the rectorship of All-hallows, Lombard-street, and died at Croydon in Surry. He was esteemed a very polite writer, and a great refiner of the English language. One of his books is entitled "*Navis Stultifera*, or the Ship of Fools;" a curious assemblage of original and translated sentiment, illustrated with wooden cuts.

<sup>b</sup> Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.





## Frome, and Part of Hillhouse Liberty.

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### C L O F O R D

**I**S situated five miles southward from Frome, on a little stream, rising at Hitching-green in the parish of Wanstraw, and comprizes the two hamlets of LEIGHTON and HOLWELL, the latter romantically situated in a deep and narrow valley. Here is a very large wood, called *Postlebury*, anciently *Postbury*, the only remaining vestige of what by tradition was once a considerable Roman villa.

At the time of the Conquest the Earl of Morton was possessed of Cloford:

“ Alured holds of the Earl, CLAFORD. Five thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for ten hides. The arable is nine carucates. In demesne are three carucates, and two servants, and three cottagers, and twelve villanes, and seven-teen bordars, with seven ploughs. There is a mill of three shillings rent, and twenty acres of meadow, and three hundred acres of pasture, and one hundred and sixty acres of wood. It was worth seven pounds, now ten pounds.”

In the time of Edw. I. II. and III. the villages of Cloford and Postbury were possessed by the family of Flory. Giles de Flory was living in these parts the beginning of the reign of Edward I.<sup>b</sup> After him came John Flory, lord of Cloford and Postbury, 26 Edw. I.<sup>c</sup> To whom succeeded John and Richard Flory, which last 3 Edw. III. gave one messuage and two acres of land in Cloford to a chaplain to say mass for the soul of him the said Richard, and for the souls of his progenitors, in the parish church of Cloford every day for ever.<sup>d</sup> 1 Ric. II. Thomas Flory held the third part of a knight's fee in High-Church near Hemington.<sup>e</sup> 18 Hen. VI. John Flory died seized of lands and tenements in Orchardleigh, leaving John his son and heir.<sup>f</sup> The manors of Cloford and Leighton have been for many generations in the possession of the family of Horner, some of whom had their residence here in the mansion near the church. Thomas Horner, esq; is the present owner.

The hamlet of HOLWELL, in this parish, is called in old writings *Holy-Waters*, and *Holy-Fathers*, from a well there, over which was a chapel or cell, much visited by pilgrims.

The church of Cloford was appropriated to the abbey of Keynsham, the temporalities whereof in this parish were in 1293 valued at sixty-five shillings.<sup>g</sup> It is a vicarage in the deanery of Frome, and in the gift of the lord of the manor; the Rev. Mr. Wells is the present incumbent.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> Cart. Antiq.

<sup>c</sup> Perambul. Forest.

<sup>d</sup> Inq. ad quod Damn.

<sup>e</sup> Lib. Feod.

<sup>f</sup> Esc.

<sup>g</sup> Taxat. Temporal.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and consists of a nave, chancel, and small aisle or chapel belonging to the Horner family. At the west end is a modern-built tower, containing two bells.

In the chancel is a stately and elegant mural monument of freestone, in the centre of which stand the statues of a man and woman in the dress of the last century; and on a black tablet is this inscription:—"Sir George Horner, knt. fell asleepe Feb. 9th, and was buried Feb. 19th, 1676. *Ætat. suæ* 72." Arms: *Sable*, three talbots passant, *argent*; Horner: impaling, *azure*, semée of fleurs de lis *or*, a lion rampant *argent*, langued *gules*. This monument is said to have been put up in the life-time of Sir George and his lady, who occasionally sat for their likenesses whilst the sculptor was at work.

On a large stone tomb in the chapel is an inscription to the memory of Maurice Horner, son of Sir John Horner, knt. who died Feb. 21, 1621. And of his children, Thomas, Margaret, George, and Edward.

Part of the ancient liberty of HILLHOUSE lies within this parish; another part is in that of Elm. Both the manor and liberty of Hillhouse, or Helehouse, (as it was sometimes written) were formerly part of the estate of the Gorges family of Wraxal, and afterwards passed to that of Horner, with whom it still continues.

## E L M,

Saxon ELM, from the quantity of that wood formerly growing there.

A SMALL parish, three miles northwest from Frome, pleasantly situated on the edge of a deep woody vale, winding through several parishes, and exhibiting some very beautiful and romantick scenery. It includes a hamlet called LITTLE-ELM, and contains about forty houses, and two hundred inhabitants.

Near a place called *Murder-Combe* in the southeast part of the parish, is an encampment, situated on the edge of a precipice, and severed from the other part of the hill by a vallum on one side only; south of it runs a rivulet. The name of this ancient work is *Tedbury*; and here, in 1691, was dug up a pot of Roman coins, most of Constantine junior.<sup>a</sup>

The manor of Elm is not noticed in the Norman Survey. It has been the property of a variety of families. 33 Edw. III. Sir Thomas de Cary, knt. son and heir of Thomafine de Cary, released to John de Edyndone all his right in the manor and advowson of the church of Elm.<sup>b</sup> 7 Hen. V. Elizabeth the widow of Reginald de

<sup>a</sup> Stukeley's *Itin. cur.* i. 149.

<sup>b</sup> Rot. claus. 33 Edw. III.



Brecon died seized of a moiety thereof.<sup>a</sup> 36 Hen. VI. John Panys, son and heir of John Panys, of Newbury in the county of Berks, granted a lease of this manor for the term of forty years to Thomas Clerk and Margery his sister.<sup>d</sup> 9 Edward IV. Humphry Stafford, earl of Devon, died seized of it.<sup>e</sup> 33 Eliz. Henry lord Compton had this manor of Elm. From him it came to Spencer, who sold the same to Robert Webb and Alexander Chocke, who sold it to Thomas Hodges, esq;<sup>f</sup> from whom it has descended to Henry Strachey, esq; the present possessor.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Frome. The Rev. Mr. King is patron and incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is a small structure, having only an aisle, chancel, and a chevron-roofed tower, with three bells.

On a small mural monument in the chancel, there is this inscription:—"Here lies the body of Ann, daughter of Joseph Francis, rector of this place, who died June 19, 1727, aged twelve years. Also the body of Joseph Francis, rector, who died June 2, 1764, aged 84."

<sup>a</sup> Efc.

<sup>d</sup> Rot. Claus. 36 Hen. VI.

<sup>e</sup> Efc.

<sup>f</sup> Licence to alienate.

## Liberty of Cranmore.

### E A S T - C R A N M O R E

**L**IES under the southeast end of Mendip, in a long valley, bounded on either side by high land; the slopes covered with hanging woods. In the bottom, a small stream rising at West-Cranmore runs along the meadows.

The name signifies marshy ground infested by cranes, from the Saxon *Cran* a crane, and *Mepe* a marsh or lake. To confirm the propriety of this etymology, it is to be observed, that the eastern extremity of the valley, through which the rivulet runs, (which doubtless was formerly marshy, and would be so now, were not the channel kept clear) is at this day distinguished by the name of *Mere-head*; and the adjoining meadow *Mere-Mead*; and although cranes are not so abundant as anciently, when multitudes were among the dainties provided at many publick entertainments mentioned on record, yet of late years those birds have been observed here in greater numbers than in most other places.

We have early memorials of the village and manor of *Cranmore*. In the year of our Lord 956, Ælphège, one of the domesticks of King Edwy, gave with his consent the  
manor

manor of Cranemere, then consisting of twelve hides, to the monks of Glastonbury.<sup>a</sup> This grant was afterwards confirmed by Edwy, Edgar, and other monarchs. When King William the Conqueror came to the throne, he continued the abbey in its possessions here, which in his time were thus recorded:

“Harding holds of the abbot CRENEMELLE. He likewise held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for twelve hides. The arable is ten carucates. Thereof in demesne are six hides, and there is one carucate, and six servants, and eight villanes, and two bordars, and seven cottagers, with three ploughs. There is a mill of thirty pence rent, and fifty acres of meadow, and sixty acres of pasture, and one hundred acres of wood. It is worth four pounds. This land cannot be separated from the church.”<sup>b</sup>

Upon some pretence or other King William Rufus seized this manor, and appointed one Ernulf his steward to superintend the fruits and profits thereof.<sup>c</sup> But upon the petition of abbot Herlewin in 1101, it was restored, and King Henry I. erected this district, including East and West-Cranmore, (as they are now distinguished) into a liberty of itself, exempt from all suits and service to the hundred courts. It was not long, however, that the monks had quiet possession of this manor; for in the great contest between them and Joceline bishop of Bath and Wells, concerning the union of their abbacy to that see, Cranmore, with many other good possessions, was by way of pacification given up to the bishoprick.<sup>d</sup> 41 Hen. III. Bishop William Bitton obtained a charter of free warren in this his manor;<sup>e</sup> and his successors enjoyed it till the time of Edward VI. when it is found among the possessions of Edward Duke of Somerset, in whose schedule it is valued at 23l. 8s. 1d.<sup>f</sup> It was soon after jointly purchased by Mr. Horner, and Mr. Bradford. The moiety purchased by Mr. Horner has descended in a regular succession in the male line to the present Thomas Horner, esq. The other moiety continued in the Bradford name till the year 1713, when Benjamin Bradford, dying without issue, devised it to Mr. John Moore, his sister's grandson, whose daughter and only child married William Jones, esq; in whose sister, Mrs. Mary Jones of Stowey, it is now vested in fee. Some time after the joint purchase of the manor, a deed of partition was made, and the manor-house, a large square building, which appears to have undergone but little alteration in its outward form since that time, the offices being built in the form of a cross, and still retaining the name of the Cross-House, became part of Bradford's share, and passed in like manner with that moiety of the estate. The arms of Bradford were, *Azure, a fesse between three griffins' heads erased argent.*

In the year 1770 an act was passed for inclosing that part of Mendip lying within the parishes of East and West-Cranmore, which, it is said, was the first inclosure made in

<sup>a</sup> Johan. Glaston. Hist. de rebus Glaston. 126.

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>c</sup> Regist. Abbat. Glaston.

<sup>d</sup> Johan. Glaston. et Ad. Domesham Hist.

<sup>e</sup> Cart. 41 Hen. III. m. 5. There is extant a curious deed, printed in Upton de Studio Militari 1654, wherein one Henry de Fernbureg engages for the sum of thirty marks sterling, to be always ready to fight as the Abbot of Glastonbury's champion, in defence of the right which he had in the manors of Cranmore and Pucklechurch, against the Bishop of Bath and Wells; the Dean of Wells, and all other his champions whatsoever. Dat. Lond. 28 die Apr. 42 Hen. III.

<sup>f</sup> MS. Valor.

that



that forest under such a sanction. A bank thrown up between the parishes of East-Cranmore and Downhead, and known by the name of *Rough-Ditch*, was considered as the boundary between them; but the same bank being continued at intervals through other parishes, where it certainly is no boundary, towards Masberry-castle, it is supposed to have been in some respect appertenant to that encampment. From its terminating at a very high point, whence an enemy might be seen at a very great distance, it is probable that it was an out-post of observation, defended by a ditch and bank as a breast-work.

East-Cranmore is a chapel of ease to Doulting; and the inhabitants dying have their burial at West-Cranmore. The chapel is a neat small building dedicated to St. James. It has an elegant mural monument of marble, inscribed to William Jones, esq; and another to James Moore, of Chilcompton, gent.—The number of houses is ten.

### W E S T - C R A N M O R E .

**C**ONTIGUOUS to East-Cranmore, but within the confines of the hundred of Wells-Forum, lies West-Cranmore, in a flattish vale, bounded on the north, south, and east, by high lands. It is tolerably well wooded, and watered by several rivulets from springs rising in the parish.

There is no survey of two places of the name of Cranmore in the Norman record, tho' the monks of Glastonbury had possessions in both. The manerial property of West-Cranmore has been for ages vested in lay hands; and now belongs to John Strode, esq; who has a handsome seat on a small eminence southward from the church, called *South-Hill*.

This family derive their descent from Warine de la Strode, lord of Strode in the county of Dorset in the time of William the Conqueror; in whose retinue he is said to have come into this country out of Bretagne in France. He was father of Sir William de Strode, knt. who was of Strode, and bore for his arms, *Ermine*, on a canton *sable* an etoile of five points *argent*. To him succeeded Hugh de Strode his son and heir, who was living 8 Henry I. and had issue two sons, Sir John Strode, knt. and Robert. Sir John the eldest was of Strode aforesaid, and was father of Sir Hugh de Strode, knt. who had issue a son named Henry, who married Maud Fichett Beaupre, and by her had two sons, Hugh and Edward. Hugh the eldest married Beatrice, one of the daughters and coheirs of Sir John de Button, knt. by Hawise daughter and coheir of Sir Matthew de Furneaux, by whom he had issue Henry de Strode, who married Elizabeth daughter and heir of John Brent, and was father of Richard Strode, who succeeded to the estates. He was thrice married; his first wife was Margaret daughter and heir of John Gerard, esq; by whom he had issue William de Strode, who married Alice daughter and heir of Roger de Ledred, of Somerton in this county, and by her had two sons, William and John. William the eldest son was of Chalmington in Dorsetshire, and was progenitor to the Strodes of Parnham in that county. John the second son was seated at Shepton-Mallet in this county, and married Joan daughter of John Okle, by whom he had issue Walter Strode, who succeeded him in the estate at Shepton-Mallet, and was father of Thomas Strode, who had two sons, John and Edward.



John, the eldest son of Thomas Strode, left issue a son named Stephen, who married Mary daughter of Richard Hodges, and was father of Thomas Strode of Shepton-Mallet in 1623. Which Thomas was twice married; his first wife was Alice daughter of Maklin Bulliford, of the county of Devon, by whom he had a daughter Alice, who died without issue; to his second wife he married Anne, daughter of — Lane, of Mells, by whom he had two daughters, Abigail and Hannah.

Edward Strode, second son of Thomas Strode abovementioned, married Alice daughter of Robert Whiting, brother of Richard Whiting, abbot of Glastonbury, and by her had issue three sons, Thomas, who is stiled of Batcomb in this county, and William and Edward, both of Shepton-Mallet.

Thomas the eldest son, by his wife the daughter of — Blanchard, esq; had issue two sons, viz. John, who married a daughter of John Hippisley, of Camely in this county, esq; and James, who married Amy daughter of Richard Pitt, esq.

William, the second son of Edward and Alice Strode abovementioned, was of Shepton-Mallet; he married Elizabeth daughter and heir of Geoffrey Upton, by whom he had three sons, Geoffrey, George, and William; and two daughters, Mary and Thomasine. Geoffrey the eldest was of Shepton-Mallet; he married first Elizabeth, daughter of William Filiol, of Marnhull in the county of Dorset, by whom he had William<sup>a</sup> his son and heir, George, John, Geoffrey, Edward, Josias, Elizabeth, and Anne. His second wife was Sarah, daughter of John Barnard. George, the second son of William Strode, was of London, and by his wife Rebecca, daughter of Nicholas Crispe, of that city, esq; had issue three sons, Thomas who succeeded him, George, and William, and two daughters, Rebecca and Anne. William, the third son of William Strode, was of London, and married Joan sole daughter and heir of Edward Barnard, of Downside, esq;<sup>b</sup> by whom he had issue Edward Strode, who was father of James Strode, who by Amy his wife, the daughter of Edward Court, had issue four sons, Carew, John, George, and Edward, and a daughter named Betty. Carew Strode, by his wife Elizabeth the daughter of — Skinner, had issue James, Edward, and Elizabeth. James the eldest married the daughter of — Head, esq; of Berkshire, but had no issue, and was succeeded by Edward, father of John Strode, who married Mary daughter of — Simpson, esq; of Penrith in Cumberland, and was father of John Strode, who married Sophia daughter of Sir Harry Parker, bart. and also of Edward, Elizabeth, Anne, and Hervey.

Edward, the third son of Edward and Alice Strode beforementioned, married Alice, daughter of Philip Pore, of the county of Wilts, esq; and had issue Edward, who inherited the estate, and George, who was of Milbrook in this county; which George married Margery, daughter of Richard Smith of the Isle of Wight, and had issue by her, James his son and heir, John, Philip, Thomas, and Mary.

The family arms are, *Ermine*, on a canton *fable*, a crescent *argent*.

The living of West-Cranmore is a curacy in the deanery of Cary, and like East-Cranmore, a chapel of ease to Doultong. The Rev. Dr. Bishop is the present incumbent. The church consists of a nave, chancel, and a north aisle. At the west end is a handsome tower, containing five bells.

<sup>a</sup> Col. William Strode, one of the five members demanded by King Charles I. out of the House of Commons.

<sup>b</sup> See vol. iii. p. 464.



## Hundred of Frome.

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### L A V R E T O N

**I**S situated in a pleasant vale, finely wooded, to the north of the town of Frome. The number of families the parish contains is thirty, and of inhabitants about one hundred and sixty. Here are some considerable woods, and elm and ash timber grows in great plenty; some very large, particularly in a field near the church, where there are several elm trees upwards of eighty feet in height, and the trunks (three feet above ground) from eleven to sixteen feet in circumference. One of them spreads two hundred and forty feet. A small river runs under a stone bridge, and empties itself into the Frome.

The Domesday Survey tells us this manor was the property of William de Ow:

“Herbert holds of William, LAVRETONE. In the time of King Edward it gelded for ten hides. The arable is ten carucates. In demesne are three carucates, and two servants, and six villanes, and eight cottagers, with four ploughs. There are twelve acres of meadow, and sixty acres of pasture, and sixty acres of wood. When he received it, it was worth seven pounds, now eight pounds.”

It was of the fee of Roger le Bigod, earl of Norfolk, and marshal of England, and was held of that honour for several generations by the family of Panes. 35 Edw. I. Thomas de Panes held it by the service of one knight's fee.<sup>b</sup> 36 Edw. III. Robert de Panes possessed the same, and was succeeded by his son John de Panes, who died 1 Ric. II.<sup>c</sup> 6 Ric. II. the manor was the property of Edmund Moigne, to whom succeeded Edmund his son, and to him his brother John Moigne.<sup>d</sup> It had formerly given name to a family of which divers are mentioned in the early records, but were of short duration in these parts. After the Panes and other possessors, it became the estate of the Gournays, and thence was attached to the duchy of Cornwall, whereto it now belongs.

The living, valued in 1292 at ten pounds,<sup>e</sup> is a rectory in the deanery of Frome, and in the gift of the bishop of the diocese. The Rev. Mr. Keate is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Bartholomew, is a small structure, 52 feet long, and 20 wide. At the west end is a tower, eight feet high, containing three bells.

Against the south wall there is a handsome monument of stone,—“To the memory of John eldest son of John Yerbury, of Frome in this county, gent. by Mary his wife, daughter and coheiress of John Brent, of Winborne in the county of Dorset, esq. He married Joan Ralins of this place, and died July 1, 1691, aged 35. To the memory also of John, eldest son of the above John and Joan Yerbury, who died

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Feod.

<sup>c</sup> Efc.

<sup>d</sup> Ibid.

<sup>e</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

Ost. 18, 1751, aged 70. To the memory of Ann, wife of John Yerbury: she died Jan. 24, 1756, aged 74." Arms: Quarterly, first and fourth, per fesse *or* and *argent*, over all a lion rampant *azure*: Yerbury. Second and third, *gules*, a wivern segreant, the tail nowed, *argent*: Brent.

The Rev. John Farwell was minister of this parish in the troubles of the last century, and was sequestered from his living, but afterwards restored.

## L U L L I N G T O N

**S**TANDS three miles north from Frome, in the centre of a rich vale well wooded and watered. The houses are thirty in number, mostly farms, and cottages of rough stone thatched, and the inhabitants one hundred and fifty-four. The whole parish contains seven hundred and ninety acres of land, chiefly pasture, and worth from fifteen to thirty shillings an acre. The river Frome washes the lower part of the parish.

It was formerly written *Loligtone*, and belonged to the Bishop of Coutances, as we read in the Norman Survey:

"The Bishop himself holds LOLIGTONE. Earl Harold held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for seven hides. The arable is five carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and two servants, and seven villanes, and ten cottagers with four ploughs. There is a mill of twenty shillings rent, and twenty acres of meadow. Wood six furlongs long, and two furlongs broad. It was worth four pounds, now one hundred shillings."

The manor, with the advowson of the church, held of the Duke of Lancaster as of the manor of Trowbridge, was afterwards conferred on the priory of Longleat in the county of Wilts, the temporalities whereof here were valued in 1293 at sixty shillings.<sup>b</sup> At the dissolution of that priory 29 Hen. VIII. it was granted to John, prior of the Carthusian monastery at Hinton in this county; but the succeeding prior of that monastery (Edmund Hord) surrendered it to the King, who, in the thirty-second year of his reign, granted the same to the Earl of Hertford. Which said Earl the year following sold it, together with the Longleat estate, to Sir John Thynne, from whom it has descended through seven generations to the present Lord Viscount Weymouth, who is now lord of the manor.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Frome, (valued in 1292 at six pounds<sup>c</sup>) and in the patronage of Lord Weymouth. The Rev. Mr. Mayson is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to All-Saints, and is a small structure of Saxon architecture, having a large embattled tower in the centre containing one bell. The

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> Taxat. Temporal.

<sup>c</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.



four corner pillars which support this tower are clustered; some of the members wrought in wreaths; and their capitals ornamented with grotesque figures of birds and strange beasts. The arch which separates the nave from the chancel is zig-zag. On the north side of the church is an elegant door-way (long since closed) of very fine Saxon workmanship, having over it on a corbel the image of the Virgin and the Holy Child.

In the church-yard is a tomb inscribed to the memory of Joan King, Richard Pob-jay, William Oborn, and Mary Oborn. Mrs. Oborn gave by deed forty shillings per annum, payable out of land at Frome, to be applied to the repairing of this tomb; and the surplus to be laid out in bread for the poor at Christmas.

## M A R S T O N - B I G O T

**I**S situated two miles northeast from Frome, in an open country, and on the southeast slope of an easy hill, overlooking a fine vale, about three miles broad, beyond which the view is terminated by a range of lofty hills from Warminster to Stourton. A stream rising near Stourton forms a little brook, which runs through this parish in its way to the Frome, and has over it several small stone bridges, kept up by the parish.

The manor of *Marston* is of great antiquity, having belonged at the Conquest to Roger Arundel, one of the loyal attendants on the Norman Conqueror. His estate here has the following description:

“ Roger himself holds MERSITONE. Æluert held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides and a half. The arable is five carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and two servants, and five villanes, and fourteen cottagers having five ploughs. There is a mill of six shillings rent, and sixteen acres of meadow, and one hundred acres of pasture. Wood one mile long, and as much broad. It is worth seven pounds.”<sup>a</sup>

The Bigods, or Bigots, who gave the cognomen to the vill, were a branch of the earls of Norfolk of that name, and earls marshal of England. Before their time the manor had been possessed by the family of De Wandestræ, seated from very ancient times at Wanstraw, in this neighbourhood, from which they had their name. There appear on record six generations of that name,<sup>b</sup> the last of whom was Odo de Wandestræ, who 9 Joh. gave to the King ten marks for his livery of half a knight's fee in Marston.<sup>c</sup> But in the succeeding reign the whole parish became the property of the Bigods. Walter de Bigot was lord of it 43 Hen. III.<sup>d</sup> and was succeeded by Richard de Bigod his son, who, incurring the displeasure of King Edw. II. by fortifying his mansion here without license, and disrespecting the King's messenger, forfeited his land

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> Cart. Antiq.

<sup>c</sup> Rot. Pip. 9 Joh.

<sup>d</sup> Rot. Pip. 43 Hen. III.

here to the crown, and it was assigned in trust for a certain time to William de Meriet, John de Meriet, and others.<sup>e</sup> In the time of Hen. V. it was held by the Orchard family of the lords of Wanstraw; and in that of Edw. IV. by William Lord Stourton.<sup>f</sup> The mansion of its ancient lords is still known by the name of *Marston-Moat*; but not a stone thereof remains. The ground within the moat is about forty yards by thirty-six. The moat is about twenty feet broad; the rampire without, in the middle, about ten feet high, but lower at the corners. Near this spot is a meadow called *Conqueror's-Mead*, a name commemorative of some ancient battle, and in it a tumulus, or burial place.

To this ancient structure has succeeded (though in a different situation) a most elegant and splendid mansion, built by the Earl of Cork and Orrery, the present owner of the manor. It is situated on a rising ground, which commands an agreeably diversified prospect over an extensive vale of pasture land. Alfred's tower, which stands on the pleasure-grounds of Stourhead, forming a fine termination on the southwest; the place of his Grace the Duke of Somerset at Bradley, and that of Lord Weymouth at Longleat, with the western downs of Wiltshire, bounding the view on the south and southeast.<sup>g</sup>

<sup>e</sup> Cart. Antiq.

<sup>f</sup> Esc.

<sup>g</sup> The house is of modern construction and great extent, being 365 feet long. The principal entrance is into a spacious hall, 43 feet by 21, of the Dorick architecture, four pillars and as many pilasters of that order supporting the middle part of the ceiling. The floor is of black and white marble, intermixed with blue Kennton stone. This room is enriched with a variety of good portraits of the ancient and honourable family of the Boyles, and their connexions of affinity, among which is a very good one of Richard the first Earl of Cork, and Lord High Treasurer of Ireland, who was created a peer in the reign of James I.

The EATING-ROOM is a handsome apartment east of the hall, 30 feet by 20, enriched with a Corinthian cornice with carved modillions painted green and white, also a chimney-piece of marble purely white. It is further ornamented with many very good paintings, among which are

Susanna and the Elders, by Guercino da Cento	The Ascension, by two disciples of Raphael
Lot and his Daughters, by the same	A N D
The Death of Cleopatra, by Carracci	An Old Woman, by Rembrandt.

The ANTI-ROOM, leading to the Drawing-Room, is a handsome apartment west of the hall, 27 feet by 13, in which is a well-wrought chimney-piece of white, Sienna, and various coloured marble; and is enriched with a variety of very good paintings, among which are the following:

The Virgin and Child, by Guido	Aëtaon and Diana, by Francesco Mola
Hippomenes and Atalanta, by Poussin	A Head, by Holbein
Two Landscapes, by Zuccarelli	Discovery of Achilles, by Vandyk
The Finding of Moses, by Polemburg	A Head, by Carlo Dolci; and
Two Conversation Pieces, by Teniers, sen.	A Head of a Turk, by Vandyk.

The DRAWING-ROOM is an elegant apartment, 20 feet by 19, with a recess of three feet, behind four Ionic pillars on circular pedestals and square plinths. The chimney-piece is of white marble, bordered with green and black, enriched with easy sculpture in strong relief. The ceiling is of elegant stucco, handsomely painted in distemper. Every piece of painting in this room is truly valuable; the subjects are as follow:

A Piece of Architecture, by Viviano	A Head, by Rembrandt
Jacob and Rebecca, by Paul Veronese	The Holy Family, by Perugin
Two Landscapes, by Bartolomeo	John the Baptist, by Cirro Ferri
A Boy catching Fleas, by Murillio	A Child brought to Christ, by Lanfranco; and
Abraham offering up his son, by Teniers	The Marriage of St. Catherine, by Carlo Maratti.

The LIBRARY is 26 feet by 24, fitted up and furnished in the most elegant stile, and enriched with a choice collection of the most esteemed authors. The cases are ornamented with fluted pilasters, and the cornice enriched with



In the pleasure-ground belonging to this seat, is a neat little cottage of one room only, fitted up by the present Earl, in commemoration of the following anecdote.— Upon the death of King Charles the First, Roger Earl of Orrery quitted the service of the Parliament in Ireland, and retired to this his seat at Marston, which his father had purchased of Sir John Hippisley. The parish church was very near the mansion-house, and Lord Orrery never failed to go thither on Sundays; but having one day sat there some time, and being disappointed of the then qualified minister, his Lordship was preparing to return home, when his steward told him a person in the church offered to preach. His Lordship (though he looked on the proposal only as a piece of enthusiasm) gave permission, and was never more surprized or delighted than with the sermon, which was filled with learning, sense, and piety. His Lordship would not suffer the preacher to escape unknown, but invited him to dinner; and enquiring of him his name, life, and fortune, received this answer: ‘My Lord, my name is ASBERRY; I am a clergyman of the church of England, and a loyal subject to the King. I have lived three years in a poor cottage under your garden wall, within a few paces of your Lordship’s house; my son lives with me, and we dig and read by turns. I have a little money, and some few books, and I submit cheerfully to the will of Providence.’ This worthy and learned man (for such Lord Orrery always called him) lived some years longer at Marston, under an allowance of thirty pounds per annum, which his Lordship obtained for him, without an obligation of taking the covenant, and died there deservedly lamented.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Frome, and in the gift of Lord Weymouth. The Rev. Mr. Clarke is the present incumbent. It was anciently appropriated to the abbey of Cirencester in Gloucestershire, and valued in 1292 at ten marks.<sup>a</sup>

The church (which has lately been taken down, and another erecting) was a small structure, dedicated to St. Leonard, and contained no monuments.

with various busts and figures in marble and bronze. The volumes, which amount to near seven thousand, are of elegant binding and in choice preservation. In this room is an excellent portrait of that indefatigable philosopher and truly good man, the Honourable Robert Boyle, esq; whose communications to the world are such an inestimable treasury of knowledge as does honour to the wisdom of human nature, and will be held in reverence as long as any respect is paid to the merit of science. Here is also the original Orrery, invented by Charles Earl of Orrery, the grandfather of the present Earl. This instrument is thirty inches in diameter.

Adjoining this apartment is an elliptical DRESSING-ROOM, 26 feet by 17, in which are the following paintings:

Mars and Venus, by Jean de Rein

A Fox breaking cover, by Elmer

The Queen Mother, by Vandyk

AND

King Charles Ist. a copy by ditto

A Girl with a basket of eggs, by Pond.

The little BREAKFAST-ROOM is 18 feet by 17, in which are several modern pieces of painting, on game and hunting subjects. Here is likewise an Air-Pump, of the invention of the Hon. Robert Boyle, before-mentioned; which is the second of that valuable machine that was made, the first being by himself presented to the Royal Society. It works with one piston only; yet, considering the few improvements which have been made in this machine since its invention, the original will be viewed by philosophers as a capital effort of genius, and justly worthy of attention.

Besides the rooms above described, are a STATE-ROOM, 30 feet by 22; another elliptical Dressing-Room, 22 feet by 11, with a recess of 5 feet; and a Billiard-Room, 30 feet by 17; in each of which a true taste of architecture prevails.

<sup>a</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

In the church-yard is a fine old yew-tree, twenty-three feet in circumference at the height of four feet above the surface of the ground.

Within this parish is a hamlet lying a mile northwest from Frome, called BRADFORD'S-BRIDGE; as also an ancient and depopulated vill, called HAM, or MONKS-HAM, by reason of its having formerly belonged to the monks of Witham, to whom the manor was given by Edmund earl of Cornwall. After the dissolution it was granted to William lord Stourton, who sold it to Sir John Thynne, knt. ancestor to Lord Weymouth.

## N U N N E Y

**I**S a large parish situated three miles southwest from Frome, and fifteen south from Bath, in a dry and healthy spot, partly hilly and partly plain. The lands are chiefly pasture, and in value from ten to forty shillings an acre; the soil at six or eight inches depth is either a bed of clay, or stratum of stone. Of the latter there are several quarries of fine blue lyas, so hard as to take a fine polish, and is equal to many of the English marbles. The parish abounds with oak timber, which here thrives well, and there are some curious mosses on the shaggy slopes of the hills. In the adjoining parish of Cloford a spring rises, called *Holywell*, or *Holwell*, from which a brook runs through Nunney, in its way to Whatley, Elm, and Bradford's-Bridge, where it joins the river Frome. This stream contains excellent trout and eels, and has a bridge of three arches over it in the street of Nunney village, through which it runs.

The village is considerable, and consists of a long street, containing some good and pleasant dwellings. On the north side of it, but separated from it by a moat, stands the castle, which, though not large, is a fine vestige of antiquity.

This edifice was raised by Sir John Delamere, lord of this place, about the end of the thirteenth century. Its form is a double square, with a round tower at each corner. The following are its dimensions:

- Length from east to west 64 feet, breadth 27 feet;
- Circumference without the walls, 240 feet;
- Corner towers 16 feet in diameter within;
- The side walls 8 feet and a half thick;
- Walls of the towers 7 feet thick;
- The entrance door, which is on the northwest side, 4 feet wide and 9 high;
- The towers and side walls 63 feet high.

Upon these towers are four turrets, two thirds the height of the former, rising fifteen feet above them, and mostly covered with ivy, as also are the upper parts of some of the towers, on the tops of which are several ash trees, and other shrubs, some of them rising



rising above the broken tops of the turrets, exhibiting a fine picturesque scene of desolated grandeur.

This castle consisted of four stories, but the floors are all fallen in. On the east side of the ground floor are two chimney-pieces twelve feet wide; and in the northwest tower are the remains of a grand staircase, which reached to the top of the castle.

An elliptical moat, twenty feet wide and ten deep, surrounded the whole building; but is now almost filled up with weeds and rubbish. It communicates with the river, and formerly had an embattled wall round it twelve feet high.

Leland, who wrote in the reign of Henry the Eighth, gives us the following account of the state of this building in his days: "Ther is a praty castle at the weste end of the parochie churche, havyng at eche end by northe and southe 2 praty rownd towres gatheryd by cumpace to joyne in to one. The wauls be very stronge and thykke, the stayres narrow, the lodginge within somewhat darke. It standithe on the leste ripe of the ryver devidithe [deviding] it from the churche yarde. The castell is motyd about, and this mote is servid by watar. conveyed into it owte of the ryver. There is a stronge waulle withe owt the mote rounde about savinge at the est parte of the castell where it is defendyd by the brooke."

In the civil wars of the last century this castle was garrisoned for the King, and had in it a large magazine; but was taken Sept. 8, 1645, by the Parliament army, together with all its stores, and burnt, to prevent its future service to the King. The effects of the siege are still visible in the shattered walls.

Near the south end of the castle is a large old mansion, called *Castle-house*, now in a state of decay, and uninhabited, excepting a few back rooms which are occupied by a farmer. At the entrance of the court-yard are large iron gates, and over them a coat bearing, in chief gutté a lion passant langued; in base three lions' heads erased langued.

A fair for cattle, sheep, and pigs, is held here on the 11th of November.

This parish includes a hamlet and manor called *TRUDOX-HILL*, a name which bespeaks it of some antiquity; but it is not mentioned in Domesday, and but little noticed in the records of succeeding reigns. It is now the property of the Earl of Egremont. A revel is held in this hamlet on Holy Thursday. It formerly had a chapel, long since destroyed, but is still so considerable as to contain fifty houses. As they were sinking a well here some years since, they met with a vein of talky isinglass, which split into large laminæ or flakes, very transparent and of a rhomboidal figure. There are few other natural particularities.

The ancient name of this parish is *Nuni*, (from Nunne a Nun, and Ea a Rivulet, there having been in Saxon times, according to tradition, a nunnery on the little stream here) as appears from the charter of King Edred, brother of King Edmund, made to the abbey of Glastonbury, wherein he grants to the monks of that house part of, viz.

• Lel. Itin. v. 7. p. 99.

two hides in this vill. At the Conquest it either lost its former name, or was very much corrupted by the transcribers of the Norman Survey, in which nothing like the original name occurs, save *Noiun*, thus described as the property of William de Mohun:

“Turgis holds of William, Noivn. Colo held it in the time of King Edward, and  
 “paid gild for five hides. The arable is three carucates. In demesne is one carucate,  
 “and four servants, and three villanes, and eight cottagers with one plough. There is  
 “half a mill, which yields thirty pence, and twenty acres of meadow, and as many of  
 “pasture, and one hundred acres of wood. It was worth formerly forty shillings, now  
 “sixty shillings.”<sup>a</sup>

The Delameres were very early possessed of the chief manor in this place, and gave it the addition of their name. Of this family there were four branches, who were severally seated in the counties of Wilts, Oxford, Hereford, and Somerset.<sup>b</sup> Nicholas de la Mere was lord of Nunney in the time of Henry III.<sup>c</sup> and was succeeded by another Nicholas, who lived here in the time of Edward I. and had several children, of whom Elias de la Mere was a great warrior, and was the first projector of the castle here, which was finished by his successors. He died about 2 Ric. II. leaving issue Sir Thomas de la Mere, knt. who 7 Hen. IV. gave lands in Kington St. Michael in the county of Wilts, to the abbey of Bradenstoke in the same county.<sup>d</sup> He married two wives, Joan and Margaret. By the former he was father of Sir Peter de la Mere, knt. whose estate amounted (as we are told by Leland) to twelve hundred marks per annum.<sup>e</sup> He was father of Richard de la Mere, who sold lands in Nunney to Andrew Braunche of Frome, and dying without issue male, was succeeded in the estate by his uncle Sir John de la Mere, knt. by Margaret, the second wife of Thomas his grandfather. This John was lord of Nunney 46 Edw. III.<sup>f</sup> His son John de la Mere was sheriff of the county of Wilts 1 Ric. II. and then bore on his seal two lions passant.<sup>g</sup> This John and his younger brother Jaques finished the castle, embellishing it with spoils brought from abroad, which had been won in the wars of France. Philip de la Mere his son succeeded to the manor of Nunney Delamere, and was father of several children; of whom Sir Elias de la Mere knt. was sheriff of Wilts 2 Hen. V. but died without issue, and Eleanor his eldest sister became heir to the whole estate lying in Somersetshire. This Eleanor was married to William Paulet, esq; serjeant at law, second son to Sir John Paulet, of Melcombe in this county. He died in 1435. By this marriage Nunney castle came into the family of Paulet, and the grandson of the pair was the celebrated William Powlett, the first Marquis of Winchester, who died in 1571, and whose great grandson was William the fourth Marquis of Winchester, whose very gallant defence of his seat called Basing-House in Hampshire, against the Parliament forces, is recorded in the annals of that time. He defended it against the most desperate attacks from August 1643 to October 1645, when at length it was taken by Cromwell in person, who stormed it, and found therein a booty of two hundred thousand pounds. Nunney castle was stormed and ruined about the same time, nor did the estates this

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.    <sup>b</sup> Inquisitiones passim.    <sup>c</sup> Cart. Antiq.    <sup>d</sup> Regisl. Priorat. de Bradenstoke MS.

<sup>e</sup> Itin. vi. 36.

<sup>f</sup> Efc.

<sup>g</sup> Seals from ancient deeds.

<sup>h</sup> Ter. Sydenham.

<sup>i</sup> Taxat. Temporal.

<sup>k</sup> Efc.



family possessed long remain unalienated. This nobleman died in 1674, being succeeded by his son Charles, who in 1689 was created Duke of Bolton, and whose grandson Charles, the third Duke, was succeeded by his brother Harry. To whom succeeded Charles his son, who died in 1765, having for a successor his brother Harry, the sixth and present Duke of Bolton, born 1720, but who has no male issue.

It has already been observed that the abbey of Glastonbury very anciently possessed a manor in this parish. This manor was called the manor of Nunney-Glaston, for the same reason that the manor we have been describing was called Nunney-Delamere, and was granted 19 Eliz. with lands in Nunney, Trudoxhill, Thorpshawe, Mells, Leigh, and Marston-Bigot, to Richard Parker.<sup>b</sup> The prior of Longleat had likewise property in the parish, which was valued in 1293 at six shillings.<sup>a</sup>

But the chief manor of Nunney, after having for many ages continued in the families of Delamere and Powlet, passed in the time of Henry VII. into other hands. In the 24th of that reign Sir Richard Mawdley, Knight of the Bath, died seized of the manor of Nunney, and the advowson of the church, together with the manor of Trudoxhill, and other lands in these parts, leaving John Mawdley his son and heir of the age of fifty years.<sup>k</sup> The name of Mawdley occurs in the parish register from the year 1545 to 1674. From them the manor came to the Sambornes, and after them to the family of Whitchurch. At the beginning of the present century William Whitchurch, esq; was lord of it, and was succeeded in it by William his son; after whose death it was sold to discharge some debts and legacies; but was afterwards repurchased by Elizabeth the relict of the said William Whitchurch, who left it by will in 1749 to James Theobald, of Waltham-place in the county of Berks, esq; the present proprietor.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Frome; the patronage has been always annexed to the manor. In 1292, the rectory was valued at fifteen marks and a half.<sup>l</sup> The present incumbent is the Rev. Samuel Whitchurch. There are about fifty or sixty acres of glebe. The parsonage-house, now uninhabited, was partly rebuilt by the late Rev. Samuel Whitchurch; who was presented to the living by the guardians of William Whitchurch, a minor, in the year 1734.

The church is dedicated to St. Peter, of which Saint there is the common emblem of a key within a circle on the tower; and there is a feast or revel kept in the parish on St. Peter's day. It consists of a nave leaded, two side aisles, a chancel, and a porch tiled. At the west end there is a handsome tower sixty-three feet high, with four pinnacles twelve feet high, and a turret at the southeast corner. This tower contains a clock and six bells. The length of the church is ninety-six feet, and the breadth thirty-four.

In the north aisle is the burial-place of the lords of the manor, of whom there are many effigies on raised tombs. On a tomb under the window lies the figure of Sir John De la Mere, knt. the founder of the castle, having a lion at his feet, and

<sup>a</sup> Ter. Sydenham.<sup>b</sup> Taxat. Temporal.<sup>k</sup> Etc.<sup>l</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

above, an escutcheon bearing the arms of that family, two lions passant guardant. The next tomb has five escutcheons on the side and end, daubed over with white-wash. Two of them are now illegible; the other three are, 1. Quarterly, first and fourth, four mullets; second and third two lions rampant addorsed. 2. In chief, a lion couchant; in base three wolves' heads erased. 3. A gate. Upon this tomb lies the effigies of a knight in armour, with his lady by his side, representing others of the same family. On the third tomb are two similar effigies. The man has a military belt and sword, and on his breast a shield or coat charged with a lion couchant. The lady is attired in a loose veil or robe flowing from her head, and open before. At the top are a key and lion intermingled; the arms, 1. Quarterly, first and fourth, three daggers in pile, Poulet: second and third, two lions, Delamere. 2. Two lions couchant guardant. Arms on the south side: 1. In chief two mullets. 2. Quarterly, first and fourth, barry of ten, over all a bendlet, impaling two lions statant. 3 as 1, impaling a lion erect. 4. Two lions erect. 5. A lion erect impaling three anchors.

The south aisle formerly belonged to the family of Samborne, which is now extinct, the heiress thereof marrying with one of the family of Flower. This aisle contains six mural monuments, with the following inscriptions:

"Here lieth Richard Mawdley, John Mawdley, Roger Mawdley, and Richard Mawdley, esquires, 1600."

"Mawdley Samborne, gent. son of Mawdley Samborne, late of Timsborough, esq; who died Dec. 7, 1690. Here lieth the body of Mary Samborne, widow of Mawdley Samborne, late of Timsborough, esq; who died Nov. 13, 1690."—Arms: a chevron between three mullets, impaling as many bugle horns. Crest, a mullet; another a stag lodged, regardant, with a branch split in his mouth.

"Here lieth the body of Mawdley Flower, who died Sept. 27, 1728, aged 28 years and 10 months. Also the body of Robert Whithear, gent. Obiit 17 April 1761, ætat. 66." Whithear married the heiress of the Flower family.

"Near this place lieth the body of Edward Flower, gent. who died July 18, 1728, aged 27."—Arms: a chevron between three mullets. Crest, a mullet.

"Underneath do rest the body of Sarah wife of Edward Flower, and daughter of Mawdley Samborne, esq. She departed this life in the faith of Jesus Christ the 19th of July 1708:—And also nine of their children."

"Near this place lieth the body of Edward Flower, clothier, who died April 6, 1727, aged 61 years."

Against the south wall is an elegant mural monument of white and Sienna marble, the tablet whereof is thus inscribed:—"Under the communion table are deposited the remains of Elizabeth and James, also near the reading desk those of James-Wadham, the beloved curate of this parish, who was called off the 5th day of January, 1776; sons and daughter of Samuel Whitchurch, rector, and Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Thomas Coward, of Spargrove, esq; in the latter of which graves their affectionate parents hope in due time to rest, in consolatory expectation of a joint resurrection to eternal



eternal life, through the merits and mediation of their blessed Redeemer." Arms: *Gules*, three talbots' heads erased *or*; on a chief *argent*, gutté de sang, a lion passant *sable*.

On the floor are the names of Hodinot, Pickfat, Hiscox, Lydford, Grines, and Popjoy.

On a table at the east end of the nave is this inscription:—"James" Singer, of this parish, gent. gave 100*l.* the interest whereof to be distributed by the minister, churchwardens, and overseers of the poor; one half on Easter-Monday, and the other on the 26th of December for ever, to such honest and industrious middle poor as do not receive alms of the parish."

This church has been supposed (but wrongly) to have been built by one of the Marquisses of Winchester, lord of the manor here.

In this church was formerly a chantry, the last incumbent of which was allowed in 1553 a pension of five pounds.<sup>a</sup> The chantry-house and mansion, with a garden and orchard adjoining, situated within the precincts of the castle, and two tenements or cottages, one yard-land of arable, and three acres of meadow in Trudoxhill, with a rent of 6*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* issuing out of the manor and rectory of Fisherton-Delamere in the county of Wilts, belonging to the said chantry, and other lands and hereditaments in Nunney, were granted by Queen Elizabeth, in the third year of her reign, to William Marquis of Winchester.<sup>c</sup>

In the church-yard are the remains of an old stone cross.

The annual number of christenings in this parish is on a seven years average twenty-six, and of burials twenty-three. In the register, among the christenings, against the name of Christopher the son of Roger Starr, baptized Dec. 17, 1604, is the following curious entry: "He clymed up a ladder to the top of the house, 23 Oct. 1606; being seven weeks and odd days less than two years old."

Adjoining to the church-yard is a very ancient house, called the Court-House, now in ruins, which tradition says was erected out of the ruins of a nunnery that formerly stood upon the spot, from which circumstance the village was denominated.

<sup>a</sup> Antiq. Notes say John.

<sup>b</sup> Willis's Hist. of Abbies, ii. 203.

<sup>c</sup> Grants from the Crown.



## O R C H A R D L E Y

**I**S a very small parish, one mile and a half north of Frome, containing only five houses, and twenty-eight inhabitants. The river Frome washes this parish on the south. The lands are in general good, much thereof being water-meadow, worth three pounds per acre; the rest, which is chiefly pasture, worth on an average twenty shillings per acre.

The living, valued in 1292 at nine marks,<sup>a</sup> is a rectory in the deanery of Frome, and in the gift of Sir Thomas Champneys, bart. The present incumbent is the Rev. Mr. Ames.

The church is fifty-one feet long and seventeen wide, containing one door, seven windows, and six pews. There is no tower or turret, and but one bell. The communion-table is a marble slab, the window over it is a compound of various fragments of good stained glass without any regularity or design.

There are in the church the following monumental inscriptions:

“Here lieth the body of John Champneys, gent. who departed this life April 11th, 1742, aged 42.”

“Here lieth the body of Richard Champneys, esq; who was born Jan. 15th, 1698-9, and died Dec. 7, 1761.”

“In memory of Sarah wife of Richard Champneys, esq; daughter of Sir William Daines, knt. who died Jan. 4, 1733, aged 33.”

This place is called in the Domesday Survey *Horcerlei*:

“The Bishop [of Coutances] himself holds HORCERLEI. Three thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is four carucates. In demesne are four carucates, and two servants, and three villanes, and nine cottagers with two ploughs. There is a mill of twelve shillings and sixpence rent, and twenty-four acres of meadow. Wood six furlongs long, and two furlongs broad. It was and is worth four pounds.”<sup>b</sup>

In the time of Hen. II. this manor was held of the King in capite by the service of one knight's fee, by Henry de Cultura,<sup>c</sup> or Colthurst. Which Henry de Cultura was succeeded by Robert de Cultura, who 10 Hen. III. paid two marks and a half for his relief of his lands here.<sup>d</sup> He had issue by Julian his wife Ralph de la Culture, who 50 Hen. III. is certified to hold in Orchardleghe half a knight's fee worth fifty shillings per annum.<sup>e</sup> To whom succeeded Henry de la Culture, his son and heir, who transferred his estate in this place to Sir Henry de Merlaund, knt. in the time of Edw. I. This Henry de Merlaund died 12 Edw. II. seized of this manor and advowson, leaving another Henry his son and heir, who died 30 Edw. III. and was succeeded in this estate by Henry de Merlaund his son and heir, the third of that name. Which Henry was a

<sup>a</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.    <sup>b</sup> Lib. Domesday.    <sup>c</sup> Lib. Nig. i. 97.    <sup>d</sup> Rot. Pip. 10 Hen. III.    <sup>e</sup> Lib. Feod.

knight



knight and celebrated warrior; he died 45 Edw. III. and Joan his wife surviving him, had this manor in dower.<sup>c</sup> John de Merlond, son and heir of Henry de Merlaund, was living in the beginning of the reign of Ric. II. and seems to have been the last of the name that possessed this manor; for 7 Hen. VI. William Romesey, esq; was lord thereof, and after him Walter Romesey, father of another Walter,<sup>d</sup> whose cousin and heir was Joan the wife of Thomas Paine, afterwards married to Henry Champneys, esq; descended from a family of the same name, who came over with William the Conqueror, and whose descendant Thomas Champneys, of Orchardley, esq; was created 7 Geo. III. a baronet of Great-Britain, by the name and title of Sir Thomas Champneys, of Orchardley in the county of Somerset, bart. His arms are, Party per pale, *argent* and *sable*, within a bordure of the same engrailed and counterchanged, a lion rampant *or*.

<sup>c</sup> Etc.<sup>d</sup> Ibid.

## R O A D.

**F**OUR miles northeast from Frome stands Road, formerly a large market-town, now only a village, consisting of one hundred and seventy families. This parish and that of Wolverton compose one tithing.

In the time of King Edward the Confessor it was held by seven different lords, and in that of William the Conqueror by Geoffrey bishop of Coutances, for three distinct manors, as appears from the following record:

“ The Bishop holds RODE for three manors. Seven thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for nine hides. The arable is nine carucates. Thereof holds of the Bishop, Robert one hide; Moyse half a hide; Robert one hide and a half; Roger two hides and a half; Sirewold two hides and a half; Richard one hide. In demesne are seven carucates, and six servants, and three villanes, and twenty-nine cottagers with four ploughs and a half. Out of the mills issues a rent of twenty-seven shillings. And there are thirty-three acres of meadow, and thirty-three acres of wood, and twenty-five acres of pasture. The whole was worth seven pounds and ten shillings; now amongst them all it is worth eight pounds and five shillings.”

After the death of Geoffrey bishop of Coutances, this land was bestowed upon one Ranulf de Farfy, a Norman,<sup>b</sup> in whom it continued till the sixth year of King John, when the estates of the Normans in England being seized, this manor reverted to the Crown, but being again disposed of, became the property of the ancient family of St. Maur. Milo de St. Maur was the first of that name who resided here, and his descendant Laurence de St. Maur obtained from Edw. I. a grant for a market upon

<sup>c</sup> Lib. Domesday.<sup>b</sup> Rot. 6 Joh. de terris Norm. 70.

the Thursday of every week in this his manor of Road; and a fair there yearly, on the eve, day, and morrow of St. Margaret the Virgin.<sup>c</sup> From which family of St. Maur the manor passed to that of Zouche in like manner, as did Castle-Cary, and other lands of the St. Maurs. But in the time of Hen. VII. this manor is found to be the joint property of the families of Stawell and Bampfylde, descendants of the sisters of Sir William St. Maur, knt. lord of Beckington and Babcary. 8 Eliz. a moiety of the manor was sold by John Stawell, esq; to Thomas Webbe, who afterwards became possessed of the whole, and 31 Eliz. sold it to the Hungerfords. It was afterwards in the possession of the Hortons of Chatley-house in Wolverton, who sold it to Robert Holton, of Farley, esq; who sold it to the grandfather of Edward Andrews, of Mangotsfield in the county of Gloucester, esq; the present possessor.

The rectory of Road was in 1292 valued at seven marks.<sup>d</sup> It is now consolidated with Wolverton, and in the patronage of Sir Edward Bayntun, of Spy-Park in the county of Wilts, bart. whose son, the Rev. Henry Bayntun, is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Laurence, and is composed of a nave and side ailes, with an embattled tower at the west end, containing six bells.

On the north side of the chancel is a stone to the memory of James Hillman, rector of this parish, who died Nov. 24, 1738, aged 53 years. There is likewise a memorial to John Helliard, gent. who died Dec. 13, 1623, and to Nathaniel Helliard, rector of Road, who died Nov. 20, 1650.

The annual number of christenings is forty; and of burials thirty-eight.

Thomas Webb, esq; in the 20th of Elizabeth, gave one pound yearly to be distributed among the poorest inhabitants.

William Yerbury, in 1703, gave a rent charge of 2l. 10s. per annum, for the payment of ten shillings on every Friday for five weeks in Lent, to be distributed amongst the poor.

Henry Whitaker gave a chief rent of eight shillings for the benefit of the poor.

<sup>c</sup> Cart. 11 Edw. I. n. 7.

<sup>d</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

## W O L V E R T O N

**L**IES to the west of Road, eight miles from Bath, and in the turnpike-road from that city to Frome. In ancient times it was a member of the manor of Road, or rather one of those three manors which are described in the Norman Survey under that appellation. In the more modern records it is styled *Wolfrington*, and in the time of Edw. IV. was held by the family of Turney. 19 Edw. IV. Walter Turney died seized of this manor, which he held of John Wadham, esq; leaving issue Philip Turney



Turney his son and heir.<sup>a</sup> This family bore *Argent*, a chevron between three bulls passant *sable*, attired *or*. They were lords also of Telsford. By an inquisition taken at Norton, 1 July, 6 Hen. VIII. it was found that Philip the son of John Turney, by Elizabeth his wife, died that year seized of the manors of Woolverton, Weke, Telsford, Chatley, and Swainswick, and that John Turney was his brother and next heir, of the age of twelve years.<sup>b</sup> The manor of Wolverton was then held of Walter Hungerford, as of the manor of Farley-castle. After this it got into the same hands as Road, and now belongs by inheritance to Edward Andrews, esq.

*Chatley-House* in this parish, situated one mile north from the church, belongs to Kingmill Bury, esq.

The church of Woolverton was valued in 1292 at one hundred shillings.<sup>c</sup> It is a rectory in the deanery of Frome, and being consolidated with that of Road in 1739, has since been held by the following incumbents:

The Rev. John Rolt, first rector of the united parishes

Rev. Mr. Ofwald

Rev. Mr. Beatson

Rev. John Collinson, of Bromham, co. Wilts

Rev. Mr. Yescomb

Rev. Henry Bayntun.

The church is a small structure of one pace, with a tower at the west end, in which are three bells.

On the north side of the church-yard is an old tomb, encompassed with an iron railing, to the memory of Edward Horton, esq; and several of his family.

<sup>a</sup> Efc.

<sup>b</sup> Inq. post mort. Philip Turney.

<sup>c</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

## R O D D E N

**I**S situated northeast of the parish of Frome, through the lands of which the turnpike roads, leading from that town to Warminster and Westbury in the county of Wilts, pass. It is not of very considerable extent, being but little more than two miles long, and somewhat less than a mile broad; containing about one thousand acres. The soil is various, some being good loam, some clay, others stone brash. The lands consist chiefly of meadow and cow-pasture, with a small proportion of arable. The meadow is worth from thirty to fifty shillings, the pasture twenty shillings; and the arable (in which is chiefly cultivated wheat and barley) from fifteen to twenty shillings per acre.

Twenty-seven houses, mostly detached from one another, compose the whole parish, which contain about one hundred and sixty inhabitants. Five of these houses are situated at **OLDFORD**, between Frome and Beckington.

Through this parish runs a rivulet (called Rodden Trout-stream) formed from two springs; one rising near the parish church of Corsley in the county of Wilts, and the other near Horningsham in the same county, the streams of which unite near the chapel of this parish; whence it proceeds about a quarter of a mile, and drives a grist mill, near the road side from Frome to Warminster; proceeding a quarter of a mile farther, it falls into the river Frome, near another mill of the same kind, within this parish. A stone bridge of two arches is over it near the first-mentioned mill.

King William the Conqueror gave the land of *Reddene*, with Weston and Tickenham, to Ernulf de Hefding, one of his attendants.

“ Ingelramn holds of Ernulf, REDDENE. Edric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is three carucates, which are in demesne, and three servants, and twenty-eight cottagers. There are two mills rendering fifteen shillings, and twenty acres of meadow, and thirty acres of pasture. Wood one mile long, and as much broad. It was and is now worth four pounds.”

In very early times this place conferred its name on a family of distinction. Walter de Raddon lived in the time of King Stephen.<sup>b</sup> His successor Richard de Raddon was sheriff of this county and Dorset, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 11 Hen. II.<sup>c</sup> In the aid levied for marrying the king's daughter 12 Hen. II. William the son of John de Harpetre certifies that he holds Raddon of the king, being one knight's fee; but complains that Richard de Raddon withholds from him the service thereof, alledging that he owes him no service of the fee of the Earl of Moreton.<sup>d</sup> This Richard de Raddon held the same year two knights' fees of the Bishop of Exeter.<sup>e</sup> In the time of Edw. I. Rodden was the estate of Walter Giffard, who dying without issue 5 Edw. I. was succeeded by his brother Godfrey Giffard, archdeacon of Wells, and bishop of Worcester. He died A. D. 1302, and had for his successor John the son and heir of William Giffard, brother of the said Godfrey.<sup>f</sup> This manor was then held of the dutchy of Lancaster. 35 Edw. III. Henry Duke of Lancaster held one knight's fee in Rodden, which John de Clyvedon held of him, and two knights' fees in the same place hoken by the heir of John Sydenham.<sup>g</sup> 6 Hen. IV. Sir Peter Courtney, knt. held this vill, and after him, 6 Hen. VI. John Stafford is found seized of the same.<sup>h</sup> It soon after was vested in the Lords Botreaux. 9 Edw. IV. Frideswide, the daughter of Robert Lord Hungerford and Molyns, son of Sir Robert Hungerford, knt. and Margaret his wife, daughter and heir of William Lord Botreaux, released all her right in the manors of Rodden and Standerwick, and in all the lands which belonged to the said Lord Botreaux in Stockwood and Camely, to Sir Richard Choke, knt. to whom Lord Botreaux had given this manor.<sup>i</sup> Sir John Choke, knt. grandson of the said Richard, sold the manors of Rodden and Flintford 22 Henry VII. to Giles Lord Daubeney. 10 Eliz. John Horner, esq; was lord of this manor; and it now is the property of the Rev. Mr. Rogers in right of his wife, who purchased it of Mrs. A'Court Ash, relict of Pearce A'Court Ash, of Heytesbury in the county of Wilts, esq. The ancient mansion of the A'Court family here is now converted into a poor-house.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domeſday. <sup>b</sup> Cartular. Glaſton. MS. <sup>c</sup> Rot. Pip. ſub. iisdem annis. <sup>d</sup> Lib. Rub. et Lib. Nig. Scac.

<sup>e</sup> Ibid.

<sup>f</sup> Eſc.

<sup>g</sup> Lib. Feod.

<sup>h</sup> Eſc.

<sup>i</sup> Rot. Claus. 9 Edw. IV.



The priory of Longleat had lands in Rodden, valued in 1293 at ten shillings.\*

Rodden, ecclesiastically considered, is a chapelry to Boynton in Wilts. The chapel is a decent little building, fifty-four feet long, and seventeen broad; having a turret with one bell.

Near the reading-desk, on a small square blue stone, is this inscription:—"Here lyeth the body of James A'Court, merchant, who deceased the 4th of Dec. 1692."

In the chancel, near the communion-table, are three memorial stones, having the following inscriptions:—

"Depositum mortale Johannis A'Court de Rodden, generosi, qui Cal. Feb. anno æræ Christianæ MDCXCI, animam placide Deo reddidit, postquam in corpore peregrinata est an. lxxii."

"Hic jacet corpus Lidiæ Court, nuper uxoris Johannis Court, de Rodden generosi, quæ obiit vicesimo sexto die Decembris, anno ætatis suæ 64, annoque Dom. 1681."

"Reponuntur hîc exuviæ Johannis A'Court, armiger, qui excessit e vivis, 27 die Octobris 1701."

This chapel was built at the expence of the Tithing, about the year 1640, by the then rector of Boynton in the county of Wilts, pursuant to an order obtained of the Archbishop of Canterbury by some persons unknown, to which the said rector annexed the chancel. The endowment is about twelve acres and a half of glebe in lieu of great tithes, and about six pounds a year paid by the inhabitants, in lieu of all other tithes and dues.

The presentation, or nomination, to the living, is still with the rector of Boynton for the time being. The present incumbent is the Rev. Mr. Rogers, lord of the manor before-mentioned.

\* Taxat. Temporal.

## S T A N D E R W I C K

**I**S a small parish, pleasantly situated on the south side of an easy slope, from whence the view finely opens to the western downs of Wiltshire; Eddington and Westbury hills terminating the view on the southeast; the seat of Lord Viscount Weymouth, and Stourhead, on the southwest. This parish is bounded on the north and northwest by Beckington, and on the southwest by Berkley.

The number of houses in this parish (including five at Oldford near Frome) is eleven only; one of which is a handsome edifice, the seat of Harry Edgell, esq. The inhabitants are about sixty.

Here is an extensive common, where the inhabitants have a right to depasture as much stock in the summer, as they can otherwise keep through the winter.

*Stalrewiche*, in the Conqueror's time, was held by Roger de Corcelle, as we read in Domesday-book:

"Robert holds of Roger, STALREWICHE. Smewin held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for a hide and a half. The arable is three carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and two villanes, and seven cottagers. There are six acres of meadow, and four acres of wood. It was worth fifty shillings; now twenty shillings."<sup>a</sup>

5 Edw. II. William Malherbe held two knights' fees in Standerwick, Shipham, and Chedder.<sup>b</sup> 6 Hen. IV. Peter Courtney, knt. died seized of Standerwick.<sup>c</sup> 5 Hen. V. Richard Kayton released to William Lord Botreaux all his right to this manor, which the said Lord William soon after gave with other lands to Richard Choke.<sup>d</sup> The Hungerfords possessed nearly the whole of this parish, and were benefactors thereto; for, whereas there lay a dirty slough in the common of Standerwick, which much incommoded travellers through Somerset and Wilts, Sir Walter Hungerford, knt. Lord of Heytesbury, and Treasurer of England in the time of Henry VI. for the health of his own soul, and for the soul of Catherine his wife, made an highway in the said marsh for the accommodation of pilgrims and others.<sup>e</sup> The present lord of the manor of Standerwick is Harry Edgell, esq; by whose grandfather it was purchased under a decree of the court of chancery, after the death of Mr. Sturton, who had the manor by purchase of Mr. Upton.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Frome, appendant to that of Beckington, these two livings having been consolidated about the year 1660. The advowson thereof formerly belonged to the abbot and convent of Cirencester in Gloucestershire.

The church has long since been demolished.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.   <sup>b</sup> Lib. Feod.   <sup>c</sup> Efc.   <sup>d</sup> Rot. Claus. 2 Ed. IV.   <sup>e</sup> Dugd. Bar. ii. 205.

## W A N S T R A W

**I**S a considerable parish, lying six miles south from Frome, and containing seventy houses, and three hundred and forty inhabitants. There is a hamlet half a mile to the south called WESTON, or *Weston-Town*, which contains ten houses. A small river runs through this parish in its way to Frome, and has over it two small bridges of a single arch each. The situation is low and woody; the soil a cold clay, and the lands chiefly pasture.

It was anciently called *Wandestrev*, and is described in the general survey in two portions, one belonging to the Canons of Wells, the other to Turstin Fitz-Rolf, lord of Witham, the two Cadburys, Dunkerton, and other manors in these parts.

"The Canons of St. Andrew hold of the Bishop, WANDESTREV. The same held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for four hides. The arable is four  
"carucates,



"carucates, of which in demesne are two hides, and there are two carucates, and four servants, and five villanes, and two cottagers, with three ploughs. There are twelve acres of meadow. Wood three furlongs long, and two furlongs broad. It is worth three pounds."

"Norman holds of Turstin, WANDESTREV. Alwold held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is five caracutes. In demesne are two carucates, and four servants, and four villanes, and four cottagers, with one plough. There are thirty-six acres of meadow, and thirty acres of pasture. Wood one mile long, and half a mile broad. It was worth three pounds, now six pounds."

The most considerable part of the parish was afterwards possessed by a family of its name, of whom was Odo de Wandestrie and others; but it seems always to have been divided as to its owners. One part thereof being called East-Wanstraw, or Church-Wanstraw; another West-Wanstraw, Wanstraw-Rogers, and Wanstraw-Bullers, from its different owners. 22 Edw. I. William de Isle held the chief manor in Wanstraw of Lord Roger de Moels,<sup>b</sup> which property being afterwards divided, was held 26 Edw. I. by John de Acton, and Elizabeth de Clyvedon; and 9 Edw. II. by John de Clyvedon, Odo de Acton, and John de Berkeley of Arlingham.<sup>c</sup> 2 Edw. III. Emmelina de Clyvedon, Idonea de Beauchamp, Odo de Acton, James de Wylton, and James Lovel, held a knight's fee in Wanstraw of John de Moels.<sup>d</sup> 50 Edw. III. Edmund de Clyvedon died seized of the fourth part of the manor of Wanstraw, which he held of Thomas Peverel in chief, leaving Edmund Hogshaw his next heir. After the death of the said Edmund the estates were divided between Thomas Lovel and John Bluet, who had married the coheiresses of Hogshaw, and the fourth part of the manor of East-Wanstraw was allotted in the partition to Thomas Lovel, who held it 2 Hen. IV. Thomas Lovel his son and heir held the same 6 Hen. V. William de Beauchamp at the same time possessing another portion.<sup>e</sup> 20 Hen. VI. John Rogers held at his death the fourth part of the manor of Wanstraw, with the fourth part of the advowson of the church thereof Bartholomew Kylbeck.<sup>f</sup> 20 Eliz. the said manor called Wanstraw-Rogers was granted to Newdigate and Founteyne.<sup>g</sup> 1 Hen. VII. John Buller held lands in Wanstraw of the Abbot of Muchelney, which lands after the dissolution of that monastery, coming into the hands of Hugh Sexey, esq; were given by the name of the manor of Buller's-Wanstraw, to his hospital at Brewton. The other part of Wanstraw, descending to the family of Baynard, was of them purchased of late years by Messrs. Bethune and Spillowby, and is now the property of the Rev. Mr. Bethune, of Rovalt near East-Grinstead in the county of Suffex.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Frome, and was valued in 1292 at ten marks.<sup>h</sup> The Rev. Mr. Bethune is patron and incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is a neat edifice, consisting of a nave and two side aisles. On the south side stands a low square tower, chevron roofed, and containing five bells. In the south aisle is a vault belonging to the Baynard family.

The annual christenings in this parish on an average are seven; the burials five.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domeſday. <sup>b</sup> Eſc. <sup>c</sup> Lib. Feod. <sup>d</sup> Ibid. <sup>e</sup> Ibid. <sup>f</sup> Eſc. <sup>g</sup> Ter. Sydenham. <sup>h</sup> Taxat. Spirit.

## W H A T L E Y,

**A** Long straggling parish, situated on high ground, three miles west from the town of Frome, in a pleasant and airy country, diversified with hill and dale, and not encumbered with wood. On the northeast side of the parish is a continuation of that fine romantick rocky glen, which runs through Elm and other parishes. The road from hence to Mells is cut through a ridge of fine rocks, abounding with spar and some few fossils.

Near the above-mentioned romantick valley, and in the hamlet of EGGFORD, part of which is within this parish, is a house, which was sometime the residence of the ingenious and pious Mrs. Elizabeth Rowe. She was born at Ilchester in this county, Sept. 11, 1674. Almost from her infant cradle she discovered a remarkable taste for painting and the finer arts, with which she amused her leisure moments till very near her death. But the strongest bias of her mind was distinguished in her love of literature, and especially poetry. In this delightful retreat, preferring the humble pleasures of retirement to those higher walks of grandeur to which she was repeatedly invited by her noble acquaintance at Longleat, she spent the prime of a life consecrated to religion and virtue. Here she wrote most of her pieces both in prose and verse, and was an example of piety, as well as of learning and refined abilities.

A. D. 940, Edmund king of the West-Saxons gave the manor of Whatley, then written *Watelege*, or the land of Watel, a Saxon lord, and consisting of ten hides, to the church of Glastonbury.<sup>a</sup> The monks thereof held it at the Conquest, and as lords paramount till the dissolution of their house.

“Walter holds of the Abbot in WATELEI four hides. Ulgar the monk held it in the time of King Edward, and it was unalienable from the church. The arable is four carucates. Thereof in demesne are two hides and a half, and there are two carucates, and four servants, and eight villanes, and five cottagers, with two ploughs. There is a mill rendering five shillings, and six acres of meadow, and fifty acres of pasture, and fourteen acres of wood. It is worth seventy shillings. In the same manor John holds of the abbot one hide of the villanes’ land. The arable is one carucate, and there are two villanes with it. It is worth fifteen shillings.”<sup>b</sup>

A small portion of land in Whatley was held at the same time by William de Ow, surveyed thus:

“William de Ow holds of the King, WATELEGE. In the time of King Edward it gelded for one hide. The arable is one carucate. There are two villanes, and six furlongs of wood in length, and four in breadth. It is worth ten shillings.”<sup>c</sup>

A moiety of the demesne lands here was given by Hen. III. to Sir Robert Waleran, governor of the castle of Bristol, who soon after the grant did suit to the abbot’s court for the lands which he held in this parish.<sup>d</sup> 52 Hen. III. this Robert de Waleran

<sup>a</sup> Guliel. Malmes. et Jo. Glaston. Hist. <sup>b</sup> Lib. Domesday. <sup>c</sup> Ibid. <sup>d</sup> Cartular. Glaston.



granted all his possessions here, with lands in Wilts and Dorset, to Alan Plugenet, son of his sister Alice, to hold to him the said Alan, and to the heirs of his body, paying yearly to him the said Robert, and his heirs, one hundred and twenty pounds, at four terms in the year.<sup>o</sup> This manor was for several successions held of the abbey of Glastonbury by the family of Brent.<sup>f</sup> By an inquisition taken 14 Hen. VIII. it was found that William Servington died seized of the manor of Whatley, which he held of the Abbot of Glastonbury, as of his manor of Doulting, and it was worth per annum twenty pounds besides all reprises.<sup>g</sup> Nicholas Servington was his son, and heir of the age of nine years. The Servingtons were of Magestone in Dorsetshire. The present lord of this manor is Thomas Horner, of Mells-Park, esq.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Frome, and in the gift of the lord of the manor. The Rev. Dr. Bishop is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated, according to Ecton, to St. George. It consists of a nave, chancel, and south aisle, with a tower surmounted by a spire at the west end.

In the south aisle on a raised tomb lies the effigy of a knight in armour, cross-legged and spurred. His hands are in a suppliant posture closed on his breast; on the arm is a shield, whereon is a chevron charged with three bucks' heads cabossed. This effigy represents one of the family of Servington, tenants of this manor under Glastonbury-abbey.

In this aisle is also a plain mural monument of stone, with a black marble tablet, bearing an inscription to the memory of Richard Shute, who died April 3, 1757, aged 85; and Philippa his wife, who died February 12, 1737, aged 68. As also to several of their children.—Arms: Per chevron, *fable*, and *or*; in chief two eagles displayed of the last.

In the north wall of the chancel is a stone thus inscribed:—"Here lieth the body of Morgan Jones Clarke, rector of this church, who departed this life Jan. 21, 1628."

On a small monument against the same wall:—"In perpetuam memoriam castæ, fidelisq; uxoris M<sup>re</sup>. Elizabethæ Wellseed, quæ obiit Jan. 17<sup>o</sup>, ætatis suæ 31, A. D. 1679, H. W. M. hoc erexit: Digna fuit hæc luce diuturniore, nisi quod luce meliore digna."—Arms: A chevron between three fleurs-de-lis.

Elizabeth Shute in 1784, gave 1l. 5s. a year to be laid out in clothes for the use of the second poor.

In 1636 a person, whose name is not now remembered, gave 1l. per annum for the benefit of the poor.

<sup>o</sup> Cart. 52 Hen. III.

<sup>f</sup> Esc.

<sup>g</sup> Inq. post Mort.



## Liberty of Witham Friary.

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### WITHAM-FRIARY, or CHARTERHOUSE-WITHAM,

**I**S a large village six miles southwest from Frome, situated in an extensive and rich vale of good land. The parish contains in the whole eighty-eight houses. Thirty-seven of these form the village near the church; nine others are situated at GEAR-HILL, a mile southward; and six in a hamlet called CHARTERHOUSE, near Blagdon on the Mendip Hills, at a vast distance from the village. The rest are scattered throughout the parish, which is computed at near six thousand acres.

Before the Conquest this place was a member of Brewham; but it was separated by the Conqueror, and granted partly to Roger de Corcelle, and partly to Turstin Fitz-Rolf, whose separate estates are thus surveyed:

“ William holds of Roger, WITEHAM. Erlebold held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides. The arable is three carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and two servants, and four villanes, and three bordars, and four cottagers, with two ploughs. There are twenty acres of meadow, and thirty acres of pasture. Wood one furlong long, and half a furlong broad. It was worth twenty shillings, now thirty shillings. This land in the time of King Edward lay in BRIWEHAM, the manor of William de Moion, and could not be alienated thence.”

“ Butolf holds of Turstin, WITEHAM. Chetel held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is two carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and six cottagers with one plough. When he received it, it was worth fifteen shillings, now twenty shillings.”

“ To this manor is added one hide in WLTUNE, which Chetel held for a manor in the time of King Edward. The arable is one carucate, and there are with it one servant and six cottagers. There are two acres of meadow. It is worth ten shillings. When he received it, it was worth thirty shillings. This land is added to the lands of Alwold, which Turstin holds.”

After the death of the said Roger de Corcelle and Turstin Fitz-Rolf, owners of these lands, the territory of Witham resorted to the crown, and there continued till the time of Henry II.

That Prince, upon his introduction of the Carthusian monks into England, A. D. 1181, founded, upon his demesne lands in this place, the first house of that order in this kingdom, which he dedicated to the honour of the blessed Virgin Mary, St. John

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.



Baptist, and All-Saints, and endowed with this manor of Witham, and other valuable possessions, having the following boundaries and description:—"In the first place, from the *Park-Ditch* northward to *Hachstock*; from the *Hachstock* of *Postberry*, by the dike of *Berwa* to the King's-mead, and through the middle of the mead to *Hacheweie*. From *Hacheweie* beyond *Humburne* to *Rugalege*; from *Rugalege* to *Waletone*; from *Waletone* by *Hanesda* to *Luthbroke*; from *Luthbroke* by the water-course to *Pennemere*; from *Pennemere* to the Mare of William Fitz-Peter, and thence to *Kincput*; from *Kincput* near the bridge to *Wodecroft-Peter*; from *Wodecroft-Peter* to *Fraggemere*; from *Fraggemere* to *Cleteweie*; from *Cleteweie* to *Fleistoke*; from *Fleistoke* to *Snepsuedesweie*; from *Snepsuedesweie* to *Ruggescliva-beaved*; thence to *Chelsledesweie*; from *Chelsledesweie* by the slope of the hill to *Fisborne-Heafole*; thence by a water-course to the park; thence by the park ditch to *Fromweie*, and from *Fromweie* to *Hachstock*."

These were the dimensions of the demesnes of Witham; besides which Hen. II. bestowed upon this his recent foundation land for pasturage at *Cheddenford*, called *Harebine* in *Hindcomefende*, reaching to *Lecherberg*, and thence to *Stemberg*, *Hopperwelle*, *Staberge*, *Sgaldeberege*, *Stanamlane*, and thence to a perforated rock by the middle of a pit; and from the perforated rock to *Chimindeclive*, and thence by the valley to *Robber's Falde*; and thence to *Kingdonefwestende*, and from *Kingdonefwestende* by the valley eastward to the way leading from *Pridy* to *Chederford*; and thence above the meadow of *John Marefcall* to *Pembelestorne Rock*; from *Pembelestorne* by the road to the top of *Malherbe* mead, and thence to *Harestone*, between the King's-mead and *Malherbe* mead; and from *Harestone* to the stone in the road leading to *Hindesgrave*; and from *Hindesgrave* to the broad way, and thence to a small thorn fence, to *Hederwoldefling*; and thence to a pit between the King's-mead and *Rugaberge* mead; from that pit to *Rademere*, to the stone which forms the boundary betwixt those two meads; and from that stone to another stone, and thence to *Clive* stone, and from *Clive* stone to the broad stone; thence to *Melestrefende*, *Stanrode*, *Begefethle*, *Eisweie*, and *Sigodesfield*; and thence by *Smelecume* vale to *Roger's-Croft*; thence to *Rugelege* and *Clotleg* to *Meleweie* cross, and up *Smelecume* to *Lefwiesmere*; thence to *Snedelesputte*, *Eilfiesmede*, *Bikwelle*, and *Suthemeste Rodberg*; thence to the Forks; and from the Forks by a hollow duct to a stone in the way to *Horswelle*; from *Horswelle* to *Hindeswelle*; and thence to *Walborge* and *Harechman*."

The grants of these lands were confirmed by King Edward I.<sup>c</sup> Besides which, they had divers lands in Selwood and Mendip forests;<sup>d</sup> the priory and manor of Tofts in Norfolk; the priory and manor of Warmington in Warwickshire; the manor and advowson of Spettisbury in Dorsetshire; a close in Rodden called *Barbour's-mede*; Monksham; divers messuages and shops in the city and suburbs of Bristol; lands and tenements in Chilthorne-Vagg, and Chilthorne-Domer; the manor of Aston in the county of Bucks; fourteen messuages, one hundred and twenty-four acres of arable, meadow, wood, and heath, in Fonthill-Gifford in the county of Wilts; lands in Chedder; the manor of *Charterhouse-Hydon*, and the grange called *Bellerica*. The prior had yearly six quarters of salt from the manor of Canford;<sup>e</sup> and the lead miners

<sup>b</sup> Mon. Angl. i. 959.

<sup>c</sup> Cart. 22 Ed. I. n. 42.

<sup>d</sup> Pat. 1 Ed. III. n. 28.

<sup>e</sup> Esc. 14 Hen. VI. post mort. Jean. Com. Bedford.

digging in their soil on Mendip, had one hoghead of wine allowed them annually from the port of Bristol.<sup>f</sup>

The first prior of this house was Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln.

Walter was prior 1318.

John de Evercriche 1387.

Nicholas de la Felde 1402.

John Pester 1458.—He and the convent obtained a licence to lay out a cemetery, about the chapel in the Friary, to bury the secular persons who lived in their district, and to have a font in the chapel, and a chaplain to officiate.<sup>g</sup>

John de Witham, a native of the place, was prior A. D. 1539. He and twelve monks surrendered their monastery to the King Feb. 15, the prior having a yearly pension of 33l. 6s. 8d. and a gratuity of 8l. 6s. 8d. In 1553 the following pensions remained in charge, viz. To John Clyffe 6l. 13s. 8d. and to John Swynneshowe 2l.<sup>b</sup> The revenues of this priory were valued in 1534 at 215l. 15s.

After its dissolution, the manor of Witham, the site of the building, with its appertinances, and a grange and messuage called *La Frarie*, as also the rectory of Witham, and all tithes of grain and hay, in and arising from Witham, Westbarrow, Bellerica, and La Frarie, were granted by Henry VIII. in the 36th year of his reign to Robert Hopton, esq. This Robert Hopton was father of Sir Ralph Hopton, knt. who died seized of Witham 15 Dec. 14 Eliz. From him descended another Sir Ralph Hopton, knt. who for his eminent services to Charles I. during the civil wars, in which he was one of his generals, was by that King created Lord Hopton, of Stratton in the county of Cornwall. His wife was Elizabeth, one of the daughters of Arthur Capel, grandfather of Arthur Lord Capel; but having no issue by her, the estate came into the family of Wyndham, by the marriage of Catherine, his eldest sister and coheir, with John Wyndham, esq. Which John Wyndham by the said Catherine his wife was father of several children, a younger one of whom was named Hopton, and possessed this manor; but dying without issue it resorted to the elder branch of the family. William Wyndham, eldest son of John and Catherine, was created a baronet in 1680. He died in 1683, and was succeeded by his son Sir Edward, whose son and successor was Sir William Wyndham, bart. who represented this county in parliament in the reigns of Queen Anne and George I. and even to the time of his death in 1740, when he was succeeded by his son Sir Charles Wyndham, the late Earl of Egremont, who died in 1763, having before sold the manor of Witham to William Beckford, esq; Lord-Mayor of London, whose son William Beckford, of Fonthill in the county of Wilts, esq; is the present owner of the manor, and patron of the living, whereof the Rev. Mr. Mitchell is incumbent.

The ruins of the monastery were taken down about the year 1764, excepting a small part connected with the east end of the church. A farm-house, and another building,

<sup>f</sup> Pat. 11 Ric. II. p. 1. m. 39.

<sup>g</sup> Regist. Beckin. 233.

<sup>b</sup> Willis's Hist. of Abbies, ii. 201.

<sup>i</sup> Itin. Will. de Worcester, 285.



have been erected on the site, by which it appears to have been an extensive edifice. The dormitory was erected in the time of Bishop Beckington.<sup>1</sup>

At a little distance, an elegant seat was begun by the late alderman Beckford, and had it been finished, would have been a superb pile. It was situated in the upper part of what was intended an extensive and beautiful lawn, with nearly a southeast aspect. The principal entrance was nobly designed, having two semicircular columns of fine proportion and elegance, one on each side the door, which reared their rich and lofty capitals almost to the top of the edifice. The whole building was to have been of Purbeck or Portland stone; but since the founder's death, which happened in 1770, it has been totally neglected, and is at length taken down.

At about a mile distance from this spot stands the church, which belonged to the monastery. It is a small structure, consisting of one aisle, the ceiling supported by stone arches which concentrate in a very singular manner. Within, on the north wall, is the passage by which the monks entered the church. This entrance is closed by the back of one of the pews, which being pulled down in order to explore it, a very disagreeable effluvia exhaled from the passage, occasioned probably from the non-admission of fresh air into a place on which perhaps no human foot had trod since the year 1539. This passage winds in a semicircular direction round to the east end of the church, where the monastery joined it.

On three grave-stones are the following inscriptions:

"Here lyeth the body of Thomas Wyndham, esq; of this parish, sonn of John Wyndham, esq; of Orchard-Wyndham in the county of Somerset, who departed this life the 16th of December, A. D. 1689."

"Here lieth the body of Hopton Wyndham, esq; who departed this life Feb. 13, A. D. 1697." Arms: A chevron between three lions heads erased.

"Here lieth the body of Jane Codrington, the wife of John Codrington, esq; of Codrington, and relict of Hopton Wyndham, esq; who died Feb. 6, 1702." Arms: Wyndham, impaling ten roundlets.

There was a chantry in this church, called *Childes-Chauntery*, endowed with ten marks per annum.\*

To another chantry here belonged two messuages, and one hundred and ninety acres of arable land, meadow, pasture and wood, in Witham and Wikham.<sup>1</sup>

A Mr. Payne gave ten shillings a year to the second poor of this parish.

CHARTERHOUSE on Mendip was a cell to this priory, and was granted as part of its possessions 36 Hen. VIII. to Robert May, esq. 44 Eliz. it was the seat of John May, esq; sheriff of this county. In the beginning of the present century it belonged to Mr. Gore, who purchased it of the May family. It was sold by the present John Gore, esq; to Welbore Ellis, esq; the present owner.

\* Pat. 22 Hen. VI. p. 2. m. 4.

<sup>1</sup> Pat. 21 Ric. II. p. 1. m. 39.

HYDON Grange, southeast from Charterhouse, belonged also to Witham-Friary, and was included in the grant to Robert May abovementioned. In the old terriers it is called *Temple-Hydon* and *Charterhouse-Hydon*.

Southward from Hydon is BILLERICA, another ancient grange of the same monastery, which after the dissolution was held by Edward Duke of Somerset, and in the schedule of his estates was valued at 14l. 12s. 8d. per annum.<sup>m</sup> 21 Eliz. the capital messuage or farm of Billerica, two hundred acres of arable and meadow land, thirty acres of pasture, and one hundred acres of wood, with appertenances in Billerica, within the parish of Frary (as Witham is often called) were held of the crown by John Ayshe, esq.<sup>n</sup>

<sup>m</sup> MS. Valor.

<sup>n</sup> Esc. 21 Eliz.





# G L A S T O N

## T W E L V E   H I D E S.

THIS is a long narrow tract of land lying between the hundreds of Wells-Forum to the northeast, and Whitney to the southwest. The river Brew traverses it lengthwise from Baltonsbury to its junction with the Yeo, and thence falls into the Parret near Burnham, commixing soon after with the channel. The soil is fenny, having formerly been overflowed by the waters of the sea, which retiring, and being excluded by sluices and sea walls, the marshes have from time to time by much industry been drained and reduced to profit.

The boundaries of these Twelve Hides were anciently distinguished in the following manner:<sup>a</sup>—They begin at *Brutafche*, at *Strete* bridge, on the south side of the said bridge, and proceed eastward in the south part of the marsh, to the south head of *Baltenesberge* bridge, and from *Baltenesberge* on the north part from the house of *Wlgar cum barba*, who was the constructor of that bridge in the time of St. Dunstan abbot of Glastonbury; and so above the causey to the further side of *Pinnelake*, by the middle of the marsh to the house of *Norman* at *Baltenesberge* mill. And so up to the road which comes from that church into *Rebolte* as far as *la Lupiwite* in the eastern part of the house of *Osgar Attabolte*. And thence into the road which leads through the middle of that *Holte* directly to *Keneward* bridge over St. Dunstan's dike. And so into the rivulet coming from *Coleburi*. And so up against the water-course to the house of *Osfward de la Burne*. And thence over-against the *Burne* to the court-house of *Ailmer*, steward at *Bradelee*. And so up from that *Burne* into the road which lies before his house. And so on the south side of that church, eastward as far as *Stoke*, into the high road. And so athwart the road over-against *Withelee* hill, into that path which lies on the south side of *Chulebury*. Then into a certain path as far as *Windciete*, into the bounds of *Bikenham* and *Ferlege*. And so downwards through the middle of *Pilton* park to the further side of the way which goes across the stone bridge into the road

<sup>a</sup> *Johannis Glastoniensis Historia de Rebus Glastoniensibus*, tom. I. p. 13.

leading to *Wottone*, and so along a path to *Fulebroc*. And thence in the south part of that church to a rivulet, and as far as *Loffellegethe*. And so down into the moor as far as *Hocbye*, and thence through the middle of the moor to *Sowye*, and into the dike bounds on the north side of *Backinwere*. And so by the bank, and along an old water-course to *Bledeney* bridge, and so by the middle of that bridge to *Litlenie*, which is the bounds of *Marteneſei*. And so about that island as far as *Sadelby*, and thence by the bank, and along a water-course to the dike which lies between the moor of *Stoke* and *Witbricheſham*; and so in the *Wynerdlake*. And thence by the bounds of *Andredeſei* island, and from *Draicote* up over-againſt the hill to *Horeſtone*. Then in the *Wyarepaike*, and so down as far as *Upper Batecumbe*. And so by the bounds of *Ceddre* to *Greneballe*. And so to *Litellakwey*, thence to *Laymerwinel*. Thence directly through the middle of an alder-grove to *Horewythege*, and so as far as *Munekenelegb*. Thence to a certain trench called *Bitwynevorde*, and so to *Scearpeborde*. Thence to *Notepulle*, and *Ylake*, and so along *Ylake* down to *Twere*. And from *Twere* along *Abedeſdicke*, up to *Langby*, thence into the great water-course, and along it eaſtward into the bounds of *Wetbemore*, and from *Northilade* as far as *Tunſingwere*. Thence to *Kinpingmere*, thence to *Middelmede*; thence beyond the hill to *Cumeſham*. Thence into *Litlake*, and through the middle of the moor, as far as the bounds of *Mere* and *Pouldone*. And so by thoſe bounds eaſtward, in the ſouth part of the moor till underneath *Scherpham*. And so thence under *Hundewode* eaſtward to *Brutaſche*, where the bounds began.

Within this diſtrict were contained the following places, viz. The island of *Glaſton*, with the fields, woods, meadows, and moors, belonging thereto; the island of *Heorti*, with a fine and extenſive grove of alders, meadows, and fruitful paſtures. After this a great part of *Piltone* park; then *Bekinham* with *Stikelingb*. After theſe *Withele* and *Colnburſi*, with all *Westpennard*, fields, meadows, and paſtures thereto belonging. Then the *Burne* and *Kyneard*, with their fields and meadows. After, great part of *Balteneſbergh*, with its fields, meadows, large paſtures, and with all the alder groves, and moors weſtward, on the north ſide of *Buddecle*, as far as *Brutaſche* on the ſouth ſide of *Strete* bridge. Then *Edgarlegb*, with its fields and meadows. Then the island of *Beokery*, with its appertenanceſ; and from *Brutaſche* abovementioned, the whole of the marſh weſtward, which lies on the north ſide of *Hundefwode* and *Scherpham*, as far as the bounds of *Pouldon* and *Mere* into *Lichelake*. The island alſo of *Mere* and *Westhey*, with their fields, meadows, woods, and ſpacious moors; the island of *Godeney*, with its lands and very large moors; the island of *Padenebeorge* and *Northilade*, with arable lands, meadows, paſtures, moors, and ample woods; the island of *Andredeſey*, excelling all the reſt in pleaſantneſs of ſituation, with its lands, woods, meadows, and large moors; and the island of *Martineſbey*, with the lands, meadows, and paſtures appertaining thereto. And near *Meindepe* hill is *Batecumbe*, with all its lands and paſtures upon



upon the hill thereto belonging. All these places, continues my author, contained within the bounds of the twelve hides, and belonging to Glastonbury, enjoyed all the immunities of regal dignity, from ancient times and from the first establishment of Christianity in this land; and they were confirmed to the church of Glastonbury as well by the British as the English and Norman kings.<sup>b</sup> Of the immunities and powers which appertained to that church, one was very particular; which was, that by the grant of King Canute, no subject could enter this district without the leave and permission of the Lord Abbot of Glastonbury. It now includes the following parishes:—Glastonbury St. Benedict, Glastonbury St. John, Baltonsbury, Bradley, Mere, West-Pennard, and North-Wotton.

How this territory obtained the appellation of the TWELVE HIDES, we learn from the monkish writers of the soil, who have carried the annals of their house to the remotest ages of christianity, and arrogated to it an honour unallowable to any other society or place in Britain.

When St. Philip the Apostle, after the death of our blessed Saviour, was in Gaul, promulgating the doctrine of the Christian Religion, he was informed by certain refugees, that all those horrid superstitions which he had observed in the inhabitants of the country, and which he found so much labour and difficulty in overcoming, originated from a little island, at no great distance from the continent, called *Britain*. Thither he immediately resolved to extend the influence of his precepts, and in the place of barbarous and bloody rites, long exercised by bigoted and besotted Druids, to introduce the meek and gentle system of Christianity. Accordingly he dispatched twelve of his companions and followers, and appointed Joseph of Arimathea, who not long before had taken his Saviour from the cross, to superintend the sacred embassy. Britain was wild and uncultivated, its inhabitants rude and inimical to strangers; yet withal, its king Arviragus could foster a few itinerants, whom he knew not how to hate, nor wished to love. In consideration of their hard and laborious journey, he disposed their habitation in a small island, then waste and untillaged, and surrounded by bogs and morasses; assigning to each of the twelve a certain portion of land called a hide, sufficient for one family to live upon, and composing in all a territory, denominated to this day THE TWELVE HIDES OF GLASTON.

<sup>b</sup> Johannes Glaston. *De locis principalibus infra duodecim bidas.*



## G L A S T O N B U R Y.

**T**HE spot was at this early period called by the natives *Ynswytryn*, or the Glassy Island, either because its surface represented a *glasten*, or blue green colour; or because it abounded with the herb called *Glast*, or woad, with which they were used to tinge their bodies. In after times it received the fancied name of *Avalon*, or the Isle of Apples; or the land where *Avalloc*, a British chief, first pitched his residence. The Saxons finally called it *Glæstingabyrig*.

Here, according to the monastick annalists, St. Joseph erected to the honour of the blessed Virgin Mary, of wattles and wreathed twigs, the first Christian oratory in England; which being decayed by time, was rebuilt by St. Phaganus and Diruvianus, two legates of Pope Eleutherius, who came into this island about one hundred years after the death of Joseph, Lucius then being king of the country. They also built another oratory on the top of the hill called the Torr, to St. Michael the Archangel, "That he there might have honour on earth of men, who, at the command of God, should bring men to eternal honours in heaven." St. Patrick the apostle of Ireland, A. D. 439, visited the island of *Ynswytryn*, which was by that time become a noted school of sanctity, and a regular congregation of monks, and repaired the two ruined chapels of St. Michael and the blessed Virgin. St. Benignus, his successor in the see of Armagh, followed his example, and retired to this place, then newly named *Avalon*, where he presided over a few religious till his death. About the year of our Lord 530, St. David, archbishop of Menevia, accompanied by seven of his suffragan bishops, took a journey to Avalon, and expended large sums of money in adding to the buildings of the church. This last-mentioned saint was uncle of the renowned King Arthur, who in his time, A. D. 542, having been mortally wounded in the rebellion of his cousin Mordred at the battle of Camlan, was carried to this abbey, that he might prepare himself for his departure out of life in the society of the religious, and be interred among such a number of saints as reposed there from the beginning of Christianity. He was accordingly here buried, and his bones remained unmolested in the monks' cemetery for six hundred and forty years, when being found in digging a sepulchre, the relicks were removed into the presbytery of the church, and reinterred with the following inscription by Abbot Swansey:

"*Hic jacet Arthurus, flos Regum, gloria regni,  
Quem mores, probitas, commendant laude perenni.*"

The common tradition was, that he suffered only a temporary kind of death, and that he would come again to reassume the sceptre:

"*But for he skaped y<sup>e</sup> batell y<sup>e</sup> wyys,  
Bretons and Cornysch seyeth thus,  
That he lepyth zut perde,  
And schall come and be a kyng aye.*



At Glastynghbury on the queer,  
They made Arter's tombe ther,  
And wrote with Latyn vers thus

*Hic jacet Arthurus, rex quondam, rexque futurus.*"<sup>a</sup>

But to say no more of this illustrious warrior, than that five different epitaphs are attributed to his tomb, we return to the church of Glastonbury, which in the year 605 was instituted into a more regular society by St. Augustine the monk, who was sent into England by Pope Gregory the Great, to preach the faith to the English Saxons. Twenty-five years after this St. Paulinus, bishop of Rochester, (but before that the first archbishop of York) resided in this monastery, and about this period the place adopted the name of *Glassteinbyri*, by which, with some little variation of orthography, it has ever since been called. This Paulinus was a great benefactor to the abbey, the buildings of which he enlarged, built the old church with timber, and covered it without, from top to bottom, with lead.<sup>b</sup>

Celric, Ceolwlph, Kenewalch, Kentwine, Cedwalla, and other kings, were great benefactors to the abbey, and enriched it with valuable lands and possessions; but when Ina came to the throne, he excelled all his predecessors in his munificence. For in the year of our Lord 708 he pulled down the old ruinous buildings of the monastery, and rebuilt it in the most sumptuous and magnificent manner, to the honour of Christ, and the Apostles St. Peter and St. Paul; adorning the edifice with a costly chapel, garnished and plated over with two thousand six hundred and forty pounds weight of silver; and an altar with two hundred and sixty-four pounds weight of gold.<sup>c</sup> Besides which he gave rich ornaments thereto, as chalice, censer, candlesticks, bason, bucket, images, and pall for the altar of incredible value, with precious gems for the embroidery of the celebrating robes.

Nor did his liberality rest here; for he bestowed on the abbey a great extent of territory; and, by his charter granted A.D. 725, confirmed to the monks whatever had at any time been given by any of his predecessors, and amongst other immunities exempted from episcopal authority the church of Glastonbury, and the following churches subject thereto; viz. Sowey, Brent, Moorlinch, Shapwick, Street, Butleigh, and Pilton. The jurisdiction, however, over these seven parishes was the subject of a four hundred and fifty years' controversy between the monks of this monastery and the bishops of the diocese. They afterwards composed the archdeaconry, and are still called the *Jurisdiction of Glastonbury*.

Succeeding Monarchs withheld not their gratuities, but were zealous in ratifying, confirming, and adding to all the grants that had precedently been made to this illustrious foundation. In short, (to use the words of a Glastonbury historian) Kings and Queens, not only of the West-Saxons, but of other kingdoms of the heptarchy; several Archbishops and Bishops, many Dukes, and the nobility of both sexes, thought themselves happy in increasing the revenues of this venerable house, to obtain them a place of sepulture therein.<sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup> De gestis Arthuri in Libro Rubro Bathoniæ, penes Præhon. Vicecom. Weymouth. <sup>b</sup> Joh. Glaston. Hist. i. 89.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid. 95.

<sup>d</sup> History and Antiquities of Glastonbury, by Charles Eyston, p. 31.

However, during the dreadful depredations of the Danes, both the monastery and town of Glastonbury began to drop their splendour, and exhibit the appearance of ruin and distress. To restore it to its ancient dignity was the business of King Edmund, who appointed St. Dunstan abbot over it, and permitted him to make free use of his regal treasury to enable him to rebuild it. A new foundation was laid in the year of Christ 942, and the offices were built after a model brought from France, whence also he introduced a new congregation of Benedictine monks, and, aided by the liberality of his Monarch, restored the abbey to its former lustre.

To add thereto, and to render the religious respectable in the eyes of the laity, King Edmund, in the year 944, granted to St. Dunstan and his monks a charter, confirming all former ones, and discharging them from divers burdens, duties, contributions, and subjections; and giving them a right and power to receive fines, punish malefactors, and to enjoy all their lands and possessions as free from all claims as he enjoyed his own:

King Edgar granted the monks several charters, conveying to them additional privileges and possessions. Among the former, were the liberty of determining pleas, and correcting delinquents; sanctuary within the limits of the hundred; the appropriating hidden treasure to their own use; that the monks should always be electors of their own abbot, and that all controversies whatsoever within their jurisdiction should be determined in the abbot's court.

The lands, which at this period, or at least before the Norman Conquest, the monastery of Glastonbury possessed by the grants of different kings and others, were immense in number and in value.

Arthur King of the Britons gave *Brent-Marsh* and *Polden*, with many other lands, which the Anglo-Saxons seized, but afterwards restored. Kenewalch gave *Ferramere*, with the two islands on each side the lake; viz. *Westbay* and *Godney*; as also the islands of *Beokery*, *Martinsay*, and *Andredsey*. King Kentwine gave *Monckton*, consisting of twenty hides, with the same number of hides in *Cary*, and three in *Crewkerne*. Baldred gave *Pennard* six hides, *Logaresburgh* (afterwards called *Montacute*) sixteen hides, and *Westmere*, with the fishery of the *Parret*. Bishop Hedda gave *Leigh* upon Mendip six hides, confirmed by King Cedwalla. King Ina gave the twenty hides of *Brent*, *Sowey* or *Middlezoy* of twelve hides, *Pilton* twenty hides, *Doultling* twenty hides, in *Livig juxta Tamer* twenty hides, and the same in *Roalt*. St. Wulfrid, archbishop of York, gave *Wedmore* sixty hides, and one hide in *Clewer*. Bishop Forther gave *Bledanhead* one hide. Abbess Buggu, with the consent of King Ina, gave *Oar* three hides. King Athelard gave *Pobolt* sixty hides, and in *Toric* ten hides. Fridogida his Queen gave *Brumpton* five hides. King Cuthred, *Ure* three hides. Lulla, a maiden, gave *Baltonsbury* and *Shapwick* ten hides. King Ethelbald, *Gassick* and *Bradley* four hides. Kinelwulph, *Wotton* five hides, *Compton* five hides, and *Houndsborough*. Ethelard his steward gave three hides in *Cbedder*, viz. *Ellenborough* and *Comb*. Sulca, a maiden, gave *Cullum* eleven hides. King Offa, *Inelworth* ten hides. Ethelmund, *Huntsfil*, *Edgisl*, *Butleigh* twenty hides. King Athelwulph gave *Uffecolum* twenty-four hides, *Bucland* five, *Pennard* nine, and confirmed the grant of Earl Ethelstan of *Clutton* ten hides;



hides; and of Enulph, *Ditchet*, *Lottisham*, and *Hornblotton*. King Ethelbald gave *Blancminster* ten hides. King Athelstan granted and confirmed, of the gift of Duke Athelm, *Marksbury* ten hides; of the gift of archbishop Wulfhelm, *Deverel* twenty hides; of the gift of Ofric, *Over-Deverel* or *Monkton* ten hides; of the gift of Elfreda, queen of King Edward, *Winterburne* ten hides; of the gift of Duke Ethelstan, *Wrington* twenty hides, *Weston* or *Fosscot* five hides, and *Lyme* in Dorsetshire, six hides; and of the gift of Widow Uffa, *Stoke* five hides. King Edmund gave *Christian-Malsford* twenty hides, *Kingston* eight, *Wotton* five, *Whatley* ten, *Pucklechurch* thirty, *Eastford*, with the fishery, half a hide; *Domerham*, *Merton*, and *Pendrieth*, one hundred hides; *Stone* eight hides. He confirmed also the grant of Elfreda, King Edward's Queen, of *Acford*, *Buckland*, and *Plais*, consisting of twenty-seven hides; *Hannington* fifteen hides; of the gift of Wulfrid, *Kington* thirty hides, *Grittleton* ten hides, *Turnworth* five, and *Tintinbull* five hides; of the gift of Elfi, *Batcombe* twenty hides; of the gift of Earl Ethelstan, *Mells* twenty hides; of the gift of Segewulph, *Abbotsbury* five hides; of the gift of Wulfec, *Langford* two hides. King Edred gave *Badbury* twenty-five hides; two hides in *Christchurch*, *Turnock*, and *Staplewell*; two in *Nunney*, and one in *Ellenborough*. He granted likewise the large manor of *Ashbury*, consisting of forty hides. King Alfred gave *Camerton* five hides. Ælfgitha, a nun, gave *Pennard-Minster* ten hides. King Edwin gave *Pamborough* two hides, and *Blackford* six. He confirmed also Elphegus's grant of *Cranmore*, containing twelve hides; Esericus's, of *Widcombe* six; Alwin's, of eight hides in *Stourton*; Brithric's, of *Yeovilton* five hides; Brithere's, of *Wyneat*. King Edgar gave *Stour* thirty hides, *Milton-Puddimore* two, *Luccombe* two, *Blackford* five, *Ham* seven, *Dunden* five, and *Wheatbill* three. He confirmed Duke Alphonse's grant of *Westbury* forty hides, and of *Oibery* five; Alwin's, of *Grittleton* twenty-five hides, *Nettleton* twenty, and *Horton* ten; as also alderman Alphonse's grant of twenty hides in *Badcombe*; Ealdred's, of *Clifton*; Elflem's, of *Durborough*; Athelflede's, of *Hannington*; Queen Ælswith's, of *Winscombe* fifteen hides, *Idmiston* ten, *Streton* six, and *Andredsey* half a hide; of the grant of Edred, *Middleball* fifteen hides; of Brithrige, *Hilton* five hides. King Egelred gave *Austcliff* six hides, *Sidborough* one, *Fishwere*, and a house in *Wilton*. And King Edmund Ironside gave *Newton-Castle* in Dorsetshire, consisting of seventeen hides.\*

At the coming in of the Conqueror the abbey was stripped of many of these possessions, but they still retained the following manors in this county, viz. Glastonbury, Mere, Pamborough, Andredsey, Winscombe, Milton, Lydford, Shapwick, Middlezoy, Cossington, Durborough, Blackford, Stowel, Walton, Ashcott, Pedwell, Budley, Dunden, Greinton, Leigh, Ham, Butleigh, Lotterford, Pilton, Shepton, Pennard, Baltonsbury, Doultong, Badcombe, Westcombe, Mells, Whatley, Wrington, Monkton, Marksbury, Ditchet, Hornblotton, Camerton, Cranmore, Brent, Downhead, and some small parcels of land, not distinguished in the general survey of that period.

Their possessions in the town and environs of Glastonbury are thus surveyed:

“ The church of GLASTONBURY has in that vill twelve hides, which were never assessed nor taxed. The arable is thirty carucates. In demesne are ten hides wanting

\* Johan. Glaston. Hist. i. 41, 42, 43, 44.

“ one virgate. And there are five carucates, and seventeen servants, and twenty-one  
 “ villanes, and twenty-three cottagers with five ploughs. There are eight smiths, and  
 “ three arpents of vineyard,<sup>f</sup> and sixty acres of meadow, and two hundred acres of  
 “ pasture, and twenty acres of wood, and three hundred acres of coppice wood. It is  
 “ worth twenty pounds.

“ To this manor adjoins an island called MERE, where are sixty acres of land. The  
 “ arable is one carucate, and there are ten fishermen, and three fisheries, which pay  
 “ twenty pence, and six acres of meadow, and six acres of wood, and two arpents of  
 “ vineyard. It is worth twenty shillings.

“ Another island belongs thereto, which is called PADENEBERIE. There are six  
 “ acres of land, and three arpents of vineyard, and one cottager. It is worth four  
 “ shillings.

“ A third island adjoins thereto called EDERESIGE, in which are two hides, which  
 “ never paid geld. There is one carucate, with one bordar, and two acres of meadow,  
 “ and one acre of coppice wood. It is worth fifteen shillings. Goduin holds it of  
 “ the abbot.”<sup>g</sup>

The knights who held lands of the abbey in the times of Henry I. and Henry II. were,

Walter de Scireburne, who held one knight's fee, and after him Earl Patrick.

Walter Waleran the elder held one fee, and after him his son Walter.

Robert Malet held ten fees, and Hubert de Sancta Sufanna held thereof two fees,  
 and afterwards William Malet held the whole for twelve knights' fees.

Alured de Lincoln the elder, five; afterwards Alfred.

Robert de Candos and Walter his son, one.

Ansketil de Cosinton, one; his grandson after him.

Geffrey de Coveston, one; and afterwards Geffrey Fitz-Adam.

Hugh de Grainton and his grandson, half a fee.

Sanfon de Spercegrave and his son, one fee.

Walter de Abbodeston and Robert his son, one fee.

Richard Fitz-Urfe and Reginald his son, one and a half.

William Fitz-Walter and Robert Fitz-Martin his son, five.

Odo Baucans, and afterwards Geffrey his grandson, one.

William de Hwatele, one.

Alberick, and after him Roger Folioth, one.

Ralph Huse, one.

John Fitz-Hamund and William his grandson, one.

Geffrey Tortesmains, and afterwards Robert Pukerel, one.

Osbert de Lifuns, and afterwards Henry de Newmarch, one.

Roger de Berkeley, one.

Henry Oresceyill and Helias his son, one.

<sup>f</sup> It appears from an old terrier of this abbey of the time of Edward III. that there was then a vineyard in Glastonbury of five acres, and another in Pamborough of three. The arpent was a measure made use of in Normandy, and was equivalent to our furlong.

<sup>g</sup> Lib. Domesday.



Ralph Basset, and the heir of Ralph Basset junior, one.

Aiulf and William Fitz-Richard his son, half a fee.

Rembald Ufcarl, and after him Robert de Winshore, one.

Richard Cotele held twenty pounds value of land, which belonged to the demesnes and to the table of the monks, and did no service therefrom.

Baldwin de Fflecote held one fee, and in the time of Hen. II. the heir of Ywan his son held the same.<sup>b</sup>

For all which fees the abbot paid to the King the sum of twenty-six pounds thirteen shillings and four-pence.<sup>1</sup> And 33 Hen. II. in the escuage or scutage charged for the army of Galway to those barons who did not attend the King in his expedition, the same abbot was assessed at forty pounds for the fees above recited.<sup>2</sup> The same sum was likewise paid in the aid levied for the ransom of King Richard I. when he was taken and imprisoned in his return from the Holy Land.<sup>1</sup>

In the taxation of Pope Nicholas, made A.D. 1293, the Temporalities of the abbot within this county were thus charged:

Deanery of REDCLIFF.					£.	s.	d.
Wrington—	The abbot of Glaston	—	—	—	41	0	0
Marksbury—	The same	—	—	—	15	10	0
Deanery of FROME.					16	11	0
Mells	—	—	—	—			
Deanery of CARY.					21	0	0
Doulting	—	—	—	—	42	0	0
Pilton	—	—	—	—	50	6	10
Ditchet	—	—	—	—	18	8	8
Pennard	—	—	—	—	21	15	0
Batcombe	—	—	—	—			
Deanery of ILCHESTER.					33	0	0
Ham	—	—	—	—	14	12	0
Milton	—	—	—	—			
Deanery of TAUNTON.					30	0	0
West-Monkton—	Chamberlain of Glaston	—	—	—			
Deanery of POULET.					7	2	3
Greinton	—	—	—	—	8	4	9
Withyes	—	—	—	—			
Deanery of AXBRIDGE.					130	4	0
Brent, South-Brent, East-Brent, Lympsham, and Berrow							

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Nig. Scac. i. 87, 88, 89.

<sup>1</sup> Mag. Rot. 14 Hen. II. r. 10, a.

<sup>2</sup> Mag. Rot. 33 Hen. II. r. 12, a.

<sup>1</sup> Mag. Rot. 6 Ric. I. r. 13, b.

Jurisdiction of GLASTONBURY.				£.	s.	d.
Glastonbury.----	The abbot of Glastonbury	—	—	51	13	10
	The portion of the prior of Glaston	—	—	46	8	0
	The portion of the almoner	—	—	8	3	0
	The portion of the cook	—	—	19	3	4
	The portion of the pitancer	—	—	19	15	4
	The portion of the gardener	—	—	0	50	0
	The portion of the infirmarer	—	—	6	2	8
	The portion of the hostler	—	—	4	0	0
	The portion of the præcentor	—	—	0	54	4
Ferling-Mere.----	The abbot of Glaston	—	—	20	0	0
Baltonsbury	—	—	—	26	0	0
Butleigh	—	—	—	37	0	0
Street	—	—	—	29	0	0
Walton	—	—	—	28	0	0
Afshot	—	—	—	16	15	0
Shapwick	—	—	—	30	2	6
Sowy, Weston, Middlezoy, and Othery	—	—	—	104	1	8
The hundred of Whitleigh	—	—	—	8	0	0
The hundred of Whitstone	—	—	—	6	0	0
Andresey---The sexton of Glastonbury	—	—	—	10	0	0
Glastonbury	{ The abbot	—	—	0	60	0
		The chamberlain	—	0	100	0

THE QUINZIEME of the King from the liberty of the abbot of Glastonbury, with twenty pounds of advance, assessed 8 Edw. III.

				£.	s.	d.	Advance.	£.	s.	d.
Glastonbury, with the twelve hides				12	6	8		1	10	0
Hundred of WHITLEIGH.										
The village of Weston				9	0	1		0	6	0
Middlezoy				8	2	4		0	13	4
Othery				8	14	3		0	13	4
Moorlinch				1	1	2		0	6	0
Greinton				1	10	0		0	3	0
Ashcot				2	10	4		0	5	0
Shapwick				1	9	4		0	4	0
Walton				1	5	4		0	5	0
Street				1	12	8		0	10	0
Butleigh				1	14	4		0	7	8
Milton				0	19	8		0	2	0
Blackford				0	14	4		0	2	0
Wheathill				0	6	8		0	0	8
Cary				0	10	0		0	0	12
Dunden				2	16	0		0	5	0
Catcott				1	0	0		0	3	0



				Advance.		
				£.	s.	d.
The village of Edington	—	—	—	1	1	1
Chilton	—	—	—	0	13	8
Coffington	—	—	—	1	7	4
Stawell	—	—	—	0	16	2
Sutton	—	—	—	0	16	4
Wollavington	—	—	—	2	0	0
The Hundred of WHITSTONE.						
The village of Corfcombe	—	—	—	3	10	0
Shepton	—	—	—	10	11	4
From which to the Lord Abbot's men at Ham	—	—	—	1	10	0
The village of Doultong	—	—	—	5	0	10
Charlton	—	—	—	2	8	10
Batcombe	—	—	—	4	14	6
Lamiat	—	—	—	1	4	4
Ditchet	—	—	—	3	0	0
Alhampton	—	—	—	0	15	4
Hornblotton	—	—	—	0	9	4
Pennard	—	—	—	5	9	8
Pylle	—	—	—	2	1	0
Bradley	—	—	—	1	3	8
Rooksham	—	—	—	1	5	0
Baltonsbury	—	—	—	2	13	0
Pilton	—	—	—	4	0	0
Compton	—	—	—	3	14	8
Wotton	—	—	—	3	8	8
Downhead	—	—	—	0	13	4
The Hundred of BRENT.						
The village of South-Brent	—	—	—	4	17	8
Berrow	—	—	—	9	2	2
Lympsham	—	—	—	5	18	11
East-Brent	—	—	—	10	7	11
The Hundred of WRINGTON.						
The town of Wrington	—	—	—	10	0	0
The manor of Mells	—	—	—	4	6	8
The manor of Ham	—	—	—	3	0	10
The manor of Monkton	—	—	—	4	0	4
Marksbury	—	—	—	0	12	1

The sum of the taxation of the goods spiritual and temporal of the abbot and convent of Glastonbury, in and out of the county of Somerfet, was 157*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.* The tenths 157*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* Quinzieme or fifteenth of the principal taxation 104*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.*<sup>m</sup>

<sup>m</sup> Adam. de Domerham, Hist. ii. 675 in Auſtario.

King Henry II. confirmed to the abbey all its possessions, liberties, and privileges; and King Edw. III. ratified the same; and granted it a charter of free warren for the following manors, viz. Glastonbury, Meer, Baltonsbury, Pilton, Doultong, Mells, Batcombe, Ditchet, Pennard, Butleigh, Milton, High-Ham, Weston, Middlezoy, Othery, Greinton, Shapwick, Ashcot, Walton, Street, Brent, Wrington, Marksbury, and Monkton.<sup>a</sup>

Besides this manerial property, the abbot and convent were possessed of a great number of rectories and advowsons; as Lympsham, Marksbury, Wrington, Batcombe, Ditchet, Mells, Street and Walton, High-Ham, Puddimore-Milton, Greinton, and Monkton. The churches also of the following vicarages were appropriated to them, and they presented the vicars:—Doultong, with the four chapels of East and West Cranmore; Downhead, and Stoke-Lane; East-Brent, East-Pennard, Bradley, Butleigh, Baltonsbury, Meer, Moorlinch; with Catcott, Chilton, Edington, and Sutton; Middlezoy, Othery, Weston-Zoyland, Shapwick, and Ashcot.

And the whole profits of these curacies were appropriated to them, St. John and St. Benignus in Glastonbury, and West-Pennard.

The abbot and officers of the monastery had pensions paid them yearly in money from several churches in their manors, by the grants of the Bishops of Bath and Wells.

To the sexton, from St. John's in Glastonbury, six marks.

To the same, from the church of Doultong, four marks.

To the same, from Batcombe, twenty shillings.

To the same, from Moorlinch, seven marks and a half.

To the same, from Shapwick, twenty shillings.

To the abbot, from High-Ham, forty shillings.

To the same, from Camerton, one mark.

To the same, from Ansford, forty shillings.

To the same, from Street, sixty shillings.

To the same, from Wrington, forty shillings.

To the same, from Ditchet, forty shillings.

To the same, from Monkton, two marks.

To the convent, from Norton-under-Hamden, forty shillings.

To the keeper of the infirmary, from Puddimore-Milton, ten shillings.

To the same, from Berrow, thirteen shillings and four-pence.

To the same, from East-Brent, thirteen shillings and four-pence.

To the same, from Lympsham, thirteen shillings and four-pence.

To the mead-maker, from Lympsham, five shillings.

To the same, from the church of St. Peter in Ivelcheester, half a mark.

To the same, from Shapwick, forty-three shillings and four-pence.

To the præcentor, from Wincombe, two marks.

To the almoner, from Middlezoy, four marks.

John Peckham, archbishop of Canterbury, confirmed these pensions by his charter dated A. D. 1281.

<sup>a</sup> Cart. 4 Ed. III. in Regist. Abbat. Glaston. pen. Præhon. Vicecom. Weymouth.



We now come to a catalogue of the Abbots that presided over this ancient and rich monastery from its erection to its dissolution.

1. Joseph of Arimathea, head of the twelve anchorites.
2. Phaganus and Diruvianus.
3. St. Patrick.
4. St. Benignus.
5. Worgret, 601.
6. Lademund.
7. Beorgret.
8. Berthwald, 670. He was afterwards archbishop of Canterbury.
9. Hemgifel, presided twenty-five years.
10. Berwald succeeded in 705.
11. Albert, 712.
12. Echfrid, 719.
13. Cengille, 729.
14. Cumbert, 745.
15. Tican, 754. He was buried at Glastonbury, with this inscription:

“*Tumba hæc mirifico fulget fabricata decore,*

“*Desuper exculptum condit sub culmine Tican.*”

16. Guban, 760.
17. Waldon, 772.
18. Bedwolf, 794.
19. Cuman, 800.
20. Mucan, 802.
21. Guthlac, 824.
22. Edmund, 840.
23. Hereferth, 859.
24. Styward. He was a great scourge to the monks, and was therefore depicted in the windows at Glastonbury with a large besom in his hand.
25. Aldhun, 891.
26. Ælfric.

27. St. Dunstan, who presided here twenty-two years, was first made bishop of Worcester, afterwards of London, and at length archbishop of Canterbury. He was sometime expelled from his abbacy by King Edwin, and one Elsius (who is stiled *Pseudo-Abbas*, or the usurper) placed in his stead. This said Dunstan was famous for persecuting and hunting married priests out of their livings. He died 988. To him succeeded

28. Egelward: he flourished in the happy days of King Edgar, who during his abbacy granted and confirmed a number of immunities to the church of Glastonbury.

29. Ælfstan occurs in 966.

30. Sigegare, 970.

31. Beorthred, 986. He died 1017, and was succeeded by
32. Brithwin, afterwards bishop of Wells. After him came
33. Egelward in 1027, who presided twenty-six years, and died A. D. 1053.
34. Egelnoth became abbot 1053. He was esteemed one of the principal men in the nation at the time of the Norman Conquest, and for this reason King William the Conqueror, being jealous of his newly acquired subjects, carried him, with many of the principal men in the nation, over into Normandy, and deposing him from his dignity, appointed in his stead
35. Turstin, or Thurstan. He was reckoned by the brethren of the convent a weak, but withal a busy, prodigal man, having shamefully wasted the revenues of the abbey, and perverted several of its ancient statutes. He so tyrannised over the poor monks, that they on a certain occasion refused obedience to his power. Whereupon he introduced a party of soldiers to bring them to order, who impetuously forced their way into the chapter-house, drove the religious into the great church, and in their way oversetting shrines and images, killed two monks at the altar, and wounded fourteen others who had defended themselves with benches and candlesticks. Upon this fray many monks left the monastery, and did not return till the death of Turstin, which happened in 1101, when the abbey began to revive under the prudent management of
36. Herlewin, who succeeded. This Herlewin laid the old church level with the ground, and expended the sum of four hundred and eighty pounds on the foundation of a new fabrick. He made a cross of wonderful workmanship, and gave nine palls, nine copes, one carpet, five vestments, three albs, and an altar, to the use of the church. He died in 1120.
37. Sigfrid, a monk of St. Martin de Seez, and brother to Ralph, the Norman archbishop of Canterbury, became the next abbot, and governed the monastery (on which he bestowed a pall and vestment) six years; at the expiration of which being made bishop of Chichester,
38. Henry de Blois was appointed his successor. This Henry was brother to Theobald earl of Blois, nephew of King Henry I. a man much esteemed for his literature and polite behaviour. During his abbacy he was promoted to the bishoprick of Winchester, and executed the office of the Pope's legate throughout England; but still retained the government of Glastonbury, to which he was a very great benefactor. He rebuilt many manor houses, and, in the monastery itself, he built from the very foundations the belfry,<sup>a</sup> the chapter-house,<sup>b</sup> the cloister,<sup>c</sup> the lavatory,<sup>d</sup> the refectory,<sup>e</sup> the

<sup>a</sup> More properly a bell-house. There were twelve large bells in the abbey.

<sup>b</sup> This building generally adjoined to the cloisters. It was a large apartment where the monks met to acknowledge and correct their faults, to confer on spiritual matters, and settle such other affairs as required the general assent of the monastery.

<sup>c</sup> The cloister was a square place with walks or allies round it supported with pillars, between which were windows, and in the square was a flower garden. The chief use of it was for the monks to make their processions, and to inter some of the lower order of their society.

<sup>d</sup> The place where the monks washed their hands before meals, furnished with a cistern, towels, presses, and other conveniences. <sup>e</sup> The



the dormitory,<sup>f</sup> the infirmary<sup>g</sup> with its chapel, a large and magnificent palace near the church, the outward gate, the great brewhouse, and several stables for horses, all constructed with an air of grandeur bespeaking the spirit of the donor. He likewise bestowed several very handsome ornaments on the church, viz. nine veils,<sup>h</sup> some of which were of the most costly diaper, and some of sattin; a rich carpet and cushion; nine copes<sup>i</sup> interwoven with gold and stone; two chesiples,<sup>k</sup> one of green sattin and another of purple; a costly stole<sup>l</sup> and maniple;<sup>m</sup> two albs;<sup>n</sup> a large banner interwoven with gold;<sup>o</sup> a silver crucifix<sup>p</sup> gilt and adorned with precious stones. He also gave a large piece of embroidery to adorn the altar; and an ivory shrine, containing, among a variety of other curious and religious remains, pieces of St. George, St. Cosmas, St. Indractus, St. Benignus, St. Audomar, and St. Hilda; some of St. John the Evangelist's sleeve; some oil of St. Catherine's tomb; and a large bone of St. Nicholas.<sup>q</sup> When he had continued forty-five years in the pastoral charge of the church of Glastonbury, this pious prelate died A. D. 1171, and was buried in the church of Winchester.

<sup>c</sup> The refectory was a great hall where the monks used to eat their meals. In it were seven long tables, and about them benches adjoining to the wall for the religious to sit on. The table at the upper end was for the abbot, the priors, and superiors of the house; the two next for the priests; the two next for the acolytes, or such as were in orders, but not invested with priesthood; and likewise for such as were intended for the ministry; the other tables were for the lay brethren. In one part of this hall was a desk, at which one of the monks stood every day during the repast of the others, and read some passages out of the Old and New Testament.

<sup>d</sup> The dormitory was that part of the monastery where the monks slept in small separate apartments over the cloister and gallery. This part was under the care of the *camerarius* or chamberlain.

<sup>e</sup> To this apartment belonged a chapel, several chambers with furniture proper for sick people, a separate common room, a kitchen, and a chamber for laying out the dead. The name of the officer who superintended it was *Infirmaryus*. Besides the above-named apartments, there were in most monasteries the *sacristy* or vestry-room, where they kept the sacred vestments; the treasury, wherein were deposited the reliques, croziers, crucifixes, church-plate, &c.; the *fraternity*, or apartment for the novices; the *library*, to which belonged a *scriptorium*, or room where the monks transcribed or composed their books; the *wardrobe*, where the monks' clothing and bedding were kept; the *common room*, where was a fire for the monks to come and warm themselves at; the *common treasury*, or receptacle of the monastick charters, registers, and leiger-books; the *buttery*, *cellar*, and other offices common to houses in general.

<sup>f</sup> The veil was of two kinds, one for the covering of the abbot and chief monks; the other as a covering for the altar.

<sup>g</sup> The largest garment for the priest, with its tires, white girdle, sleeves, and other appertenances.

<sup>h</sup> The chesiple, or *casula*, so called because it was a sort of case covering the whole body of the priest at mass. Hence came, as it is thought, the modern cassock.

<sup>i</sup> An inferior kind of garment used chiefly by the acolytes.

<sup>k</sup> A scarf worn about the wrist by the priest at the time of mass.

<sup>l</sup> A white garment and head-cloth, so called *ab albo colore*.

<sup>m</sup> The banner or flag was used in solemn processions.

<sup>n</sup> A cross generally of silver, but sometimes of gold, having thereon the image of our Saviour on the cross.

<sup>o</sup> One of the chief matters which promoted the reformation, was the discovery of the number of cheats and counterfeits in the reliques shewn in Romish churches. The bones of the same saint were shewn in twenty different places; St. Ursula had three heads; and the teeth of St. Apollonia, which were used as remedies for the tooth-ach, amounted to more than a bushel in quantity.

39. Robert, prior of Winchester, succeeded. A man accomplished in virtue, a lover of the poor, and a great benefactor to his abbey, over which he presided seven years, and dying in 1178, was buried on the south side of the chapter-house. After his death, the abbey fell into the hands of King Henry II. who deputed the trust of it to one Peter de Marci, a monk of Cluni, who died in 1184. In which same year the whole monastery, except part of the abbot's lodgings and the steeple, was by an accidental fire reduced to ashes. The King, taking compassion on the monks under this heavy disaster, sent Ralph Fitz-Stephen, one of his chamberlains, to inspect their affairs, relieve their wants, and appropriate the monastick revenues towards rebuilding the abbey. This was done with great expedition, and the new church of St. Mary was dedicated by Reginald, bishop of Bath, on the feast of St. Barnabas A. D. 1186.

40. Henry de Swansey was the next abbot, who obtained of Pope Celestine the privilege of using the mitre and ring, gloves, dalmatick, tunick, and sandals, and of blessing sacerdotal vestments. In his time King Richard I. on his return from the Holy Land, was craftily taken prisoner in his way through the Duke of Austria's dominions, at the instigation of Henry VI. the then Emperor of Germany. In order to his release the following condition was among others imposed, That one Savaricus, the Emperor's chancellor and kinsman, who was then in England in the capacity of arch-deacon of Northampton, should by him be forthwith appointed to the bishoprick of Bath and Wells, and the abbacy of Glastonbury annexed thereto, for its aggrandisement and improvement. Upon this Henry de Swansey was promoted to the see of Worcester, then vacant by the death of Bishop Robert Fitz-Ralph, and Savaricus to that of Wells, to which he immediately annexed the abbey, and assumed the title of Bishop of Glastonbury.

41. This proceeding of course occasioned great confusion among the religious of the monastery, and they in 1199 elected William Pike for their abbot, who was forthwith excommunicated, and several monks committed to prison for contempt. Upon which an apostolick mandate was obtained, directed to the Bishop of Ely, the Abbot of St. Edmunds', and the Prior of Christ-church at Canterbury, for regulating the priory, and dividing the possessions of Glastonbury between the Bishop and the Monks. These delegates, after some debate, having summoned the parties concerned, assigned to the Bishop a fourth part of the estates, viz. the manors of Meare, Pucklechurch, Winscombe, Badbury, Ashbury, Buckland, Lyme, Blackford, Cranmore, Kington, and Christian-Malford; as also the lodgings in the abbey, which had till then been appropriated to the abbots and priors of Kilcumin in Ireland. In the mean time abbot Pike died at Rome not without suspicion of poison; and Bishop Savaricus did not long survive him. But the dissention terminated not with their deaths; for Joceline, who succeeded Savaricus in the see of Wells, found these possessions too valuable to part with, without better arguments than the monks were able to produce in behalf of their own cause, now grown desperate to a degree. After a number of applications and petitions to the court of Rome, the matter however was finally adjusted by the mediation of Richard bishop of Sarum, and Pandulphus elect bishop of Norwich; and the parties came to an agreement, That there should remain to the Bishop and his successors for ever the manors of Winscombe, Pucklechurch, Blackford, and Cranmore, with all their appertinances; but that the other remaining manors of the Bishop's portion,



portion, viz. Meare, Buckland, Hinton, Christian-Malford, Badbury, and Afsbury, excepting the advowsons of all those churches save that of Meare, should be restored to the monks. This compromise was concluded A. D. 1218. Soon after which

42. William Vigor, the monk, who had been active in the debates before recited, was installed abbot by the convent, now by the Pope disengaged from the union of the bishoprick, and at liberty to elect an abbot according to their own regular observances. This William presided five years, and died in 1223. He was buried on the north side of the chapter-house; and had for his successor

43. Robert, prior of Bath, who governed the monastery with discretion eleven years, and returned to Bath with a pension allowed him of sixty pounds yearly.

44. Michael of Ambresbury succeeded in 1235. After having presided with great reputation several years, bestowed liberal sums on the buildings of the abbey, and restored to it many of its pristine possessions, he on account of old age resigned his office in 1252, and dying the year following, was buried in the abbey church, with this epitaph:

*“ Dui serpentinas fraudes & vincla resolvit,  
Restituitque obibus debita rura suis:  
Postquam turbida tranquillasset tempora, sacro  
Ecce sub hoc Abbas integitur Michael.”*

45. Roger Forde, a native of Glastonbury, and a man of great literature and famous for the eloquence of his speech, succeeded. The church of Glastonbury had not yet altogether regained its tranquility, and it was the misfortune of this good man to embroil himself in its troubles. He was opposed in all his measures by the Bishop of Bath and Wells, and by his own monks, and was at length killed at the Bishop of Rochester's palace at Bromley in Kent, on a journey which he had undertaken to defend the rights of his church, A. D. 1261, and was buried in Westminster-abbey.

46. Robert de Pederton, a native of North-Petherton, and of a very ancient family, succeeded him; he died in 1274. His chief character was paying the debts of his predecessors, which was noted on his tomb in the abbey church of Glastonbury:

*“ Liberat oppressos Pedreton ab aere alieno,  
Demum hac composita pace quiescit humo.”*

47. John de Taunton, monk of Glastonbury, was the next abbot. He gave a large quantity of books to the library, and of vestments to the church. He died in 1290, at the manor-house of Domerham in Wiltshire, and being brought to Glastonbury was there buried, with the following epitaph:

*“ Ut multo tandem sumptu multoque labore  
Fit pastor, jamjam commoda multa parat.  
Rura colit Christi, docet et praecepta Johannes,  
Mor animi exubias condit in hoc tumulto.”*

48. John de Cancia, or John Kent, succeeded, and having benefited the abbey, by the gift of a number of crosses, images, censers, banners, copes, albs, chesiples, and other

other furniture, died in the thirteenth year of his prelacy, A. D. 1303, and was buried in a sumptuous tomb which he had built for himself on the north side of the high altar. His successor was

49. Geffry Fromund, a great benefactor to the abbey, the church of which he caused to be newly dedicated, and enriched with the following furniture, viz. Two embroidered copes, and a third plain; one grey, with moons and stars, called the velvet, another of green sattin with images, and the third of white sattin. Three suits, one called the *trelles*, another yellow unembroidered, the third of white sattin; six vestments, the first called *chusingbury*, accompanied with the stole and maniple; the second with images, and ground of gold; the third of red sattin, adorned with parrots, [the arms of the abbot's family;] the fourth interwoven with gold, called the *terrilytz*, with the stole and maniple of the same workmanship; the fifth called the velvet, of the same device; as also the cope without stole or maniple, and the amice of another sort; and the sixth of white sattin, with a stole and maniple of the same. He likewise gave enchased work called the *G*, a silver censer with a boat for the frankincense, and the spoon. Six carpets, one green called the *doseez*, with the several arms of his predecessors; three smaller of the same colour, with a shield of the same length and breadth; and two yellow, charged with parrots and roses intermingled; also a very rich chesiple, and two good chesiples, with dalmaticks and tunicks suitable thereto; together with one plain chesiple, with a dalmatick and tunick, for the use of the chapel of St. Mary. He in like manner demised to the monastery certain silver vessels, costly rings, and other jewels, to the value of two hundred pounds; and expended upwards of one thousand pounds on the buildings of the abbey, the great hall of which he began, and laid the foundation of that noble chapter-house which stood till the dissolution of the abbey; he died in 1322, and was buried in the conventual church. After his death,

50. Walter de *Taunton* succeeded to the abbacy, who died on the eleventh day after the solemnity of his benediction; but during the short time of his abbotship he caused to be made the front of the choir, and otherwise adorned the abbey-church. He was succeeded by

51. Adam de Sodbury, who adorned the high altar with a large image of the blessed Virgin Mary, and a tabernacle of most excellent workmanship. He built the altar of St. Silvester and St. George, adding a number of images, a chalice, silver cruets gilt, veils and vestments, and many other ornaments; he vaulted the greatest part of the body of the church, and very curiously embellished it with paintings of saints, martyrs, kings, and benefactors. He employed one Peter Lightfoot, a monk of the abbey, to erect an astronomical clock, with a variety of machinery, part of which was calculated to move certain figures of knights, as it were, in tilts and tournaments. After the dissolution of the abbey, this clock was removed to the cathedral church of Wells, where it still remains a monument of antiquity, neither common nor incurious. He also gave an organ to the church of incredible size; cast eleven great bells; six of which he caused to be hung in the church tower, and the other five in the clock tower. The said Adam de Sodbury died in 1335, when

52. John



52. John de Breinton, or de Brimpton, succeeded; who, at the expence of a thousand pounds, finished the abbot's great hall, which two of his predecessors had begun, and carried up to the closing of the windows: he built the kitchen, the long gallery, the abbot's chapel, and a long range of out-offices: He died in the year 1341. To him succeeded

53. Walter de Monington, who made the vault of the choir and of the presbytery; to which he added a couple of arches; and dying 1374, was succeeded by

54. John Chinoc, who rebuilt the ruined cloister, the dormitory, and frater, and likewise finished the buildings of the great hall and chapter-house, begun by abbot Fromund. He died 1420, and was interred in the said chapter-house.

55. His successor, Nicholas de Frome, (so called from the place of his nativity) presided over the abbey thirty-five years; and dying 1456, had for his successor

56. Walter More, elected May 7th of the same year, at whose election there were present fifty-three monks. He died Oct. 22, 1456, and was succeeded by

57. John de Selwode, who was elected abbot Nov. 15, 1457, at which time there were forty-eight monks resident in the monastery; he was a native of the East-Woodlands, near Frome, in the forest of Selwood, where his progenitors (who were of the name of Edmonds) had considerable possessions; he died July 8th, 1493.

58. After his death, a monk of this monastery, of the name of Thomas Wafyn, was elected abbot; but some contention ensuing thereupon, he was displaced Nov. 12, 1492, by Richard Fox, bishop of Bath and Wells; and

59. Richard Beere succeeded him the January following. This Beere built at a great expence a suit of apartments, called *The King's Lodgings*, and another suit for secular priests; he built Edgar's chapel, vaulted the east part of the nave of the abbey-church, and adorned the high altar with an antependium of silver gilt. Adjoining to the north side of the nave he constructed a chapel of our Lady of Loretto, and in the south end the chapel of the Sepulchre. He built A. D. 1512, a small almshouse for ten poor women in the north precincts of the abbey, and the manor-house of Sharpham-Park, which before his time was nothing but a poor lodge: he died January 20th, 1524, and was buried in the south aisle of the abbey church. On his death forty-seven monks devolved the election of their abbot to Cardinal Wolsey, who declared Richard Whiting, then chamberlain of the house, their abbot.

60. This Richard Whiting, who was the last abbot of Glastonbury, finished Edgar's chapel, and much enlarged the buildings of the monastery. He presided over this abbey in those unpropitious days to monks and religious societies, when the accumulated treasures of many ages, which had been derived to the church from the bounty of kings and nobles, were appropriated to secular purses and avaricious interests. Whiting was unwilling to surrender his abbey to the King, or to lend an ear to any of the solicitations which were offered him; whereupon, by false pretence, they seized on him at his manor-house of Sharpham, A. D. 1539, and without much formal process as to law or equity, he was dragged on a hurdle to the Torr hill; where, without the least regard

regard to his age, his sanctity, or his entreaties to revisit his convent, he was hanged; his head set upon the abbey gate, and his quarters sent to Wells, Bath, Ivelchester, and Bridgwater.\*

He was head of the most ancient abbey in England,<sup>†</sup> whereof the governor had precedence of all the abbots in England till the year 1154, when pope Adrian IV. gave that honour to the abbot of St. Alban's, in consideration of having received his education in that abbey, and because our proto-martyr St. Alban suffered there. He was always a member of the upper house of convocation, and a parliamentary baron; being summoned by a particular writ to sit among the elders and barons of the realm. His apartment was a kind of a well-disciplined court, where the sons of noblemen and gentlemen were sent for their virtuous education, and returned thence excellently accomplished. After this manner Abbot Whiting bred up near three hundred pupils, besides others of a meaner rank, whom he fitted for the universities at home. His table, attendants, and officers, were an honour to the nation; he is said to have entertained five hundred persons of fashion at one time, and that upon Wednesdays and Fridays weekly, all the poor of the country were relieved by his particular charity; and when he went abroad, (which he seldom did but to national synods, general chapters, and parliamentary conventions) he was attended by upwards of one hundred persons.

The fate of the abbot and the abbey together being thus decided, the buildings and revenues of this house, which had flourished for such a length of time, became the objects of depredation. Those riches which had flowed from the treasury of monarchs,

\* He was accused of treason, and of having embezzled the conventual plate. Concerning his execution the following letter is still extant.

“ Right Honourable and my verry good Lorde,

“ Pleaseth youre Lordeshipp to be advertysed, that I have receyved youre Letters dated the 12th daye of this preasent; and understoned by the same youre Lordeshipp's greate Goodnes towards my Friende the Abbott of *Peterborough*, for whome I have ben ofte bold to wryte unto youre good Lordship, moste hartely thankyng your Lordeshipp for that and all other youre Goodnes that I have founde at youre good Lordeshipp's handes, even so desiering you my Lord, longe to contynew in the same.

“ My Lorde thies shalbe to assertheyne that on Thursdaye the 14th daye of this present Moneth the Abbott of *Glastonburye* was arrayned, and the next daye putt to Execucyon wyth 2 other of his Monkes for the robbing of *Glastonburye* Church, on the *Torre* Hyll next unto the Towne of *Glastonburye*; the seyde Abbot's Body being devyded in fower partes and Hedde stryken off; wherof oone Quarter stondythe at Welles, another at Bathe, and at Ylchester and Brigewater the rest; and his head uppon the Abby-Gate of *Glastonbury*.

“ And as concernyng the Rape and Burghlary comytted, those Parties are all condempned, and fower of theym put to Execucyon at the place of the Aft don, which is called the *Were*, and there adjudged to hange styll in chaynes to th' ensample of others. As for *Capon*, oone of the seyde offenders, I have reprived according to your Lordeshipp's Letters, of whome I shall further shew unto you at my nexte repayre unto the Courte. And here I do sende youre Lordeshipp the names of th' enquest that passed on *Whytyng* the seid Abbot, which I ensure you my Lorde, is as worshippfull a Jurye as was charged here thies many yeres. And there was never seene in thies parts so greate apparunce as were here at this present tyme, and never better wylyng to serve the Kyng. My Lorde I ensure you there were many bylles putt up ageynst the Abbott by hys tenaunts and others for wronges and injurys that he had donne theym. And I comytt youre good Lordeshipp to the keapyng of the blessed Tryntyte. From *Welles* the 16th Day of *Novembre* [1539]

“ Your owen to commande J. RUSSELL.”

\* Hist. of Glastonbury, p. 98.

and



and those structures, which had outbraved the shock of time, and the inclemency of ages, sunk together. The estates of the monastery, devolving to the crown, were either granted or sold away. The revenues in 1444, were valued thus; *Abbas Glaston. cum officiariis ibidem, et cum ecclesia de Strete*, MDCCXXVII marks xs. i. e. 1151l. 6s. 8d. and in 1534, 26 Hen. VIII. at 3311l. 7s. 6d. the tenths 331l. 2s. 9d.

In the first year of Queen Mary, viz. A. D. 1553, the following pensions remained in charge to twenty-five monks, which was about half the number of the religious of this abbey before its dissolution:—Thomas White 6l. 13s. 4d. Nicholas Andrewe 6l. John Hayne 6l. Thomas Waye 6l. Thomas Asheby 6l. William Huchyns 5l. Thomas Dovell 5l. John Tanner 5l. Thomas Nicholas 5l. John Watson 4l. 6s. 8d. John Chynne 4l. 6s. 8d. John Grundell 4l. Martin Noble 4l. Robert Cowker 4l. John Sheperd 4l. John Pyddesley 4l. William Gryce 4l. John Waye 4l. John Downe 4l. William Byfshope 4l. John Housley 4l. Simon Outerdon 4l. John Golde 4l. Thomas Carry 4l. Aristotle Webb 4l.<sup>1</sup>

The monks had some hopes of regaining their abbey under the auspices of Queen Mary, who had restored several religious orders to their ancient mansions; and for this purpose a few of them, placed at Westminster, Nov. 21, 1556, presented a petition to the lord chamberlain, praying him to put the Queen in mind of her promise concerning the reestablishment of the great monastery of Glastonbury;<sup>2</sup> but either by reason of the shortness of that Queen's reign, or the impracticability of the project, the petition had not its desired effect.

After the dissolution, the following survey of the manor of Glastonbury and its appertenances was taken upon the certificate of Richard Pollard and Thomas Moyle, general surveyors of the King's lands.

“ THE LORDSHIP OF GLASTONBURYE.

“ *Demaynes kept in the Abbatt's bandes.*

“ The demaynes which don apperteyne unto the sayde late monasterye attaynted, beyng allwayes kept in the handes and occupation of the saide abbat and convent, unto the time of th' attaincture thereof, over and besydes certayn other demayne landes, letton to divers persons by indenture for terme of their lyves, (the parcells wherof in the particular boke of survey, at this present tyme therof made, severally don appere) ar of the yerely value of 48l. 10s. 8d.

“ *Rentes of Assise and Customary Tenants.*

“ The rente of assise of the freeholders apperteyning unto the sayde lordeship of Glastonburye, allways payable at the feasts of th' Annunciation of oure Ladye, Mydsomer, Michelmas, and Christmas, is of the yerely value of 35s. 6½d.

“ The rente of customary tenaunts and copiholders apperteyning unto the sayde lordeship, with the workes and customes, which they are bounde to doe by the tenure of their landes, is of the value of 262l. 15s. 6d.½

<sup>1</sup> Willis's Hist. of Abbies, i. 108.

<sup>2</sup> Burnet's Hist. of the Reformation, ii. 306.

*" Demaynes lett oute to Fermes.*

" The demaynes apperteynyng unto the sayde lordeship, beyng lett to ferme to dyvers persons, for terme of their lyves, by the same late abbat and convent, long before his attayncture, with the herbage of the parks of Norwood, 26l. 13s. 4d. Wyrall 16s. and Sharpham 40s. are of the yerely value of 49l. 11s. 8d.

*" Wood and Tymbre.*

" Within the parke of Norwood there are clxxii acres of woodde, of the age of xx yeres, and heretofore have allwayes been used to be felde and solde every xvi yeres, every acre therof at this present surveye worth xxs.

" Also within the parke of Wyrall is lx acres of fayre tymbre, esteemed to be worth 289l. 10s.

" Also within the parke of Sharpham there are lxxx acres of wood, well set with okes, ashes, and maples, whiche alweyes have ben used to be felled and solde every xiv yeres, and every acre is worth at this present tyme vis. viiij.

" Also within the same parke there ar cc okes fytt for tymbre, every oke esteemed to be worth 2s. Oute of the coppices and underwoods of the sayde woods, there may a yerely wood sale be made, not hurtyng nor spoyling any of the tymbre or underwodde; but the sayde wooddes allwaies to contynewe as good as they ar now, to the value of 382l. 2s. 1d.

*" Northwood, Wyrall, and Sharpham Parkes.*

" Northwood Parke conteyneth in circuite iiii myles, the pales were repayred, th' erbage verye good and swete, wherin are 800 deer, wherof there ar of dere of auntler 160, dere of rascall 640.

" Wyrall parke conteyneth in circuite one myle and one quarter, the pales have neded to be repayred, th' erbage very good and fertile, with a roning streame throwe the same; 100 dere, wherof are of dere of auntler 15, dere of rascall 85.

" The parke of Sharpham conteyneth in circuite ii long myles of good meade and pasture, with ii fayre pondes in the same; wherin are 160 dere, wherof are of dere of auntler 20, dere of rascall 140.

*" Commons.*

" Also there is apperteynyng unto the sayde lordeship one fayre common, called Glastonburye Moore; the pasture therof is very fertile, and in effect as good as meade, wherin the tenaunts doe common with their catall at all seasons of the yere, and it conteyneth in circuit 16 miles.

*" Able Men to serve the King.*

" Also ther ben of tennents and other able men, reciaunt and inhabiting within the precincte of the sayde lordeship, beyng in redynes to serve the King's high Majestie, when so ever they shall be called upon, to the nombre of 113.

*" Bondmen.*

" Also there are apperteynyng unto the said manor certayne men called bondemen, whose bodeyes and goodes are allwayes at the King's pleasure, as lorde therof, to the nombre of 14.



*“ Perquysites of Courtes.*

“ The profitts commying of the perquysites of the courtes, with the fynes of landes, are this present yere, as appereth in the bokes of accompts, 18l. 17s. 8d.”<sup>a</sup>

The manor of Glastonbury being thus vested in the crown, was, together with the house and site of the monastery, church, cloisters, and church-yard belonging to the same, granted by King Edward VI. in the first year of his reign to Edward duke of Somerset.<sup>1</sup> 1 Eliz. the house, site of the monastery, Wearyall-Park, a messuage called *Le Galley*, site of the manor of Bride, a messuage called the *New-Dairie*, and other lands, tenements, and hereditaments, with all their rights and appertenances in Glastonbury, were granted to Sir Peter Carew, knt.<sup>2</sup> 14 Eliz. the same premises were granted to Thomas earl of Suffex and his heirs male.<sup>3</sup> 38 Eliz. the Earl of Suffex sold the manor and site of the monastery to William Stone, who 41 Eliz. sold the same to William Cavendish, esq.<sup>b</sup> The manor was afterwards purchased by Mr. Bleadon, from whom it came to the Strodes of Dorsetshire. William Strode, esq; in the beginning of the present century, left it in partition betwixt seven daughters, coheiresses, who afterwards disposed of their several shares, reserving to them and their heirs a fee-farm or chief rent of 240l. payable yearly out of the said manor. Of the seven shares, Peter Berry, esq; became possessed of four, and sold the same to William Reeves, esq; merchant of Bristol, from whom they came by successive purchases to Henry Burgum, and George Miller, esqrs. Miller's estates being sold in August 1785, the four shares abovementioned were bought by Mr. Brook of Bath; the Tor part of the estate was purchased by Richard Colt Hoare, esq; two parts of the seven are inherited by John Moss of the city of Wells, esq; and the last single share is now the property of Lucas Pulsford, esq. Courts baron and leet are held yearly in succession by the respective lords. The manor-house is situated in the northwest part of the town, and belongs to Mr. Brook abovementioned.

This abbey was situated on the south side of the High-street leading from Wells to Bridgwater, and was surrounded on all sides by a high wall of wrought freestone. The buildings had frequently undergone those devastations which the assaults of time, or the rage of fire, lavish unsparingly on the most pompous structures.

The foundation plot of ground on which the abbey and its offices were erected, comprised no less than sixty acres within the walls. The nave of the great church, from St. Joseph's chapel to the cross, was in length two hundred and twenty feet; the choir was one hundred and fifty-five feet long, and each transept forty-five feet in length; the tower was also forty-five feet in breadth. The chapel of St. Joseph of Arimathea, contiguous to the west end of the great church, was one hundred and ten feet long, and twenty-four feet broad; under the floor thereof was a large and handsome sepulchral vault, having at the southeast corner an arched passage leading to the Tor, which has been traced a considerable way. Under the body of the church there were three large vaults, supported by two rows of strong massive pillars, in which lay entombed many corpses of the most illustrious personages. The cloisters adjoined to the church on

<sup>a</sup> Langtoft's Chron. ii. 346.<sup>1</sup> Pat. 1 Ed. VI. p. 4.<sup>2</sup> Pat. 1 Eliz. p. 7.<sup>3</sup> Pat. 14 Eliz. p. 4.<sup>b</sup> Licence to alienate.

the south side, and were a square of two hundred and twenty feet. The whole church, including the chapel of St. Joseph, was five hundred and thirty feet in length. It contained five chapels; St. Edgar's, which stood just behind the choir; St. Mary's, in the north aisle; St. Andrew's, in the south aisle; on the north side of the nave, the chapel of our Lady of Loretto; and at the south angle, the chapel of the Holy Sepulchre. The floors were inlaid with Norman tile, inscribed with scripture sentences, and the names of Kings and benefactors.

But to give the reader a competent idea of the whole of the buildings of this stupendous abbey, it will be necessary to recur to

### An Inventory of the Chambers, Offices, &c.

Taken about the time of the Reformation:

The great chamber, seventy-two feet long, and twenty-four feet broad.	The high chamber, called the <i>King's Lodgings</i> .
The abbot's chamber.	The wardrobe, under the King's.
The second chamber.	The second chamber, next to the King's.
The third chamber.	The third chamber.
The fourth chamber.	The fourth chamber.
The fifth chamber.	Two chambers, called the <i>inner chambers</i> .

### The Prior's Lodgings.

The hall.	The chapel.	The prior's chamber.	The bake-house.
The kitchen.	The buttery.	The inner chamber.	

### The Farmerar's Office.

The hall.	The kitchen.	The inner chamber.	The still-house.
The buttery.	The chapel.	The cook's chamber.	

### The Almoner's House.

The inner chamber. The buttery. The new chamber. The chamber over against it.

### In another Office.

A hall. A chamber. A chamber called *Paradise*. The inner chamber.

### The Friar's Chamber.

The doctor's chamber.	The chapel.	The monks chamber.
The bishop's chamber.	The buttery chamber.	The parlour.

### The Sexton's Office.

The chamber hanged with green say.

### The Jubiler's Office

### The Friary Office.

The dairy house.

### The Sub-Almoner's Office.

The bake-house belonging to the sub-almoner's office.	The bishop's chamber.
	The inner chamber.

The



The cellarer's chambers.  
 The red chamber.  
 The green chamber.  
 The broad chamber.  
 The chamber next to it.  
 The white chamber.  
 Paulett's chamber.  
 The fourth bed-chamber.  
 The middle chamber.  
 The next chamber.  
 The doctor's chamber.  
 Another hall.  
 The mill-house.  
 The bake-house.  
 The brew-house  
 The armory, where was a great number  
 of swords, guns, bullets, and other  
 materials belonging to that office.  
 The convent's kitchen, 40 feet square.  
 The archdeacon's office.  
 The gallery.  
 The sextery.

The kitchen.  
 Another chapel.  
 The little parlour under the gallery.  
 The great hall on the south side of the  
 cloisters, 111 feet long, and 51 feet  
 broad; hung at the upper end with a  
 great piece of arras.  
 The pantry.  
 The buttery.  
 The abbot's pump-house.  
 The abbot's stable, where were eight horses.  
 Horses, mares, and colts, kept at Sharp-  
 ham, and other parks, in number 44.  
 In the great tower seven large bells.  
 In the high church a number of costly  
 altars.  
 In the new chapel a very fair tomb of King  
 Edgar, copper gilt.  
 The altar set with images gilt.  
 The broad court belonging to the abbey,  
 contained in length 491 feet, and in  
 breadth 220 feet.

Of this immense range of buildings scarce a vestige now is to be seen; and all that remains of this once magnificent pile, are some fragments of the church, St. Joseph's chapel, and the abbot's kitchen. The rest is reduced to a heap of rubbish, loading the surface of its site with unseemly ruins. Some of the south walls of the choir are still standing, as are also some pieces of St. Edgar's, St. Andrew's, and the Loretto chapel, with the two east pillars of the tower, and a west arch leading into St. Joseph's chapel. This last-mentioned chapel, except the roof and floor, is pretty entire. It was a most elegant structure, having on each side six windows, under which were very rich compartments of zigzag arches of five pillars, and their spandrils adorned with roses, crescents, and painted stars. The south door has ornaments of flower-work, and history; and the north, which is very rich, is decorated with flourishes, foliage, and figures.

The abbot's kitchen,<sup>1</sup> built by Whiting, the last abbot, is octagonal, having in the angles four fire-places sixteen feet long. In the flat part of the roof rises an arched octagonal pyramid, crowned with a double lantern, one within another. In a smaller pyramid hung a bell to call the poor people to the adjoining almonry. In 1667, this kitchen was hired by the Quakers for a meeting-house.<sup>2</sup> In the north wall there is stuck up the effigy of an abbot, attired in his robes; which in 1780 was dug up in the north aisle of the abbey-church. Other effigies have at different

<sup>1</sup> 33 Edw. I. William Pasturell held twelve ox-gangs of land in Glastonbury, of the abbot thereof, by the service of finding a cook in the kitchen of the said abbot, and a baker in the bake-house. Etc.

<sup>2</sup> Notes by Savage.

times emerged from the ruins of this monastery, which contained the bodies of kings, bishops, abbots, priests, and nobles.

In the church were buried King Arthur, and his Queen Guinever; King Coel the second, father to St. Hellen, and grandfather to Constantine the Great; Kentwin King of the West Saxons, King Edmund I. King Edgar, and King Edmund Ironside; the Dukes Alpher, Athelstan, Elwin, and Humphry Stafford, Duke of Devonshire; Bishops, Hedda, third of the see of Winchester; Brithwold, eighth bishop of Wilton; Brithwyn, twelfth bishop of Wells; and Seffride, twenty-ninth bishop of Chichester. Abbots, Ambresbury, Pederton, Taunton, Kent, Fromund, Walter de Taunton, Sodbury, Breinton, Monington, Chinock, Frome, More, Selwood, and Beer. In the Lady Chapel lay Sir John Byconel, and Sir William Seymour, knight of the Bath; and in the south transept Sir Thomas Stawel, knt. and Hugh Monington, S. T. P. brother to Abbot Monington. In the same aisle lay the effigy of an armed knight unknown. 19 Edw. III. one John Blome, a citizen of London, procured licence from the King to search among the buildings of the monastery for the body of St. Joseph of Arimathea; but the body was not found.

We are now to say something of the town of Glastonbury itself, which owed its origin to the abbey we have been describing. It lies in a low marshy country, five miles nearly south from Wells, and in the great road from that city to Exeter. It was built in the reign of King Ina, about A. D. 708, and was endowed by that King with a variety of privileges. About the year 873 it was ruined by the Danes, but was re-edified by King Edmund, the ninth Saxon Monarch, who exempted it from all impositions and oppressions, and rendered it entirely subject to and dependant on the abbey. In this state it continued till the year 1184, when both it and the abbey were consumed by fire. It was again rebuilt by the liberality of King Henry III.; but on the eleventh of September 1276 it was once more destroyed by that dreadful earthquake which precipitated the church of St. Michael from the Tor hill, and greatly endamaged other structures in the country. It now principally consists of two streets, the chief of which runs from east to west, where stands the market cross, the other from the cross south and almost north, and is the road to Bridgewater and Exeter. In both these streets many houses are either entirely built or patched up with stones from the abbey. Out of the ruins of the old abbot's lodging on the east side of the second street above-mentioned, the house now called the Abbey-House was constructed in 1714, with arms and ornaments in very strong relief: viz. the arms of Edward the Confessor, France and England, quarterly; the initial letters of the abbots, Beer and Fromund; a cross between two cups, being the device of Beer; an ear of barley for the same, with pelicans, roses, pomegranates, two birds with expanded wings, encinctured with a mitred garland; symbols of the Evangelists, &c. The great gate, which formerly led into the abbey and the great church, is now become an inn. In this house was not long since shewn the abbot's bed, a clumsy piece of furniture. The George inn, in the High-street, was formerly an hospital for the entertainment of pilgrims resorting to the shrine of St. Joseph of Arimathea, and to those other religious reliques which drew such a number of itinerant devotees to this hallowed spot. This house was given A. D. 1490 by Abbot Selwood, together with two closes



on the north side thereof to the then chamberlain of the abbey; the front of the house is very curiously ornamented with arms, niches, and entablatures. Over the gate there is a chevron engrailed *azure* between three crosses *gules*; per pale *vert* and *azure*; per pale *azure* and *gules*. It was formerly decorated with figures of the Twelve Cæsars, two of which, with a mutilated figure of Charity, still remain. Underneath this house is a vault which comes out quite under the town, and leads to the abbey, so low that a man must crawl on his knees to pass it; but there are benches, or little narrow places to rest the elbows on, in order to ease the knees. It comes out into a large vaulted place, used for a cellar, and after about five or six paces turns aside to the right into another passage high enough for a man to walk upright; this passage is about five or six paces long, and leads to a flight of steps which conducted privately to the abbot's chamber, wherein was a large handsome bedstead, on which King Henry VIII. once lay.

In the place of the Porter's Lodge was erected a good dwelling-house, the owner of which in the last century pulled down an old mantle-piece, and placed it in the street, where it lay for several years. He was once offered three shillings for it, but would not sell it under three and four-pence. At length his daughter going to build a small chamber, got a workman to saw it out to make stairs; when in a private hole, which had been purposely made in it, the mason found near a hundred pieces of gold, of the time of Richard II. and Edw. III. and of the value of about eleven shillings each.\*

Above the George is another house with a stone bay window called the Tribunal, which was formerly filled with painted glass, consisting chiefly of coats of the Abbots, Kings of England, and the different benefactors. On the south side of the same street is the hospital or alms-house of Abbot Richard Beer, founded and endowed in 1512 for ten poor women. Adjoining thereto is a chapel, the entrance to which is from the High-street near the cross, through an ancient gateway, wherein is a room paved with Roman bricks. At the east end of the street is an old chapel or cell dedicated to St. Margaret, founded by one of the ancient abbots. In the other street on the west side of the road, stands the hospital of St. John, founded, or rather augmented, for ten poor and infirm people by abbot Michael A. D. 1246.

The town of Glastonbury comprehends two parishes, (the patronage of both formerly belonging to the abbey) St. John Baptist, and St. Benignus or Benedict, which within their precincts contain upwards of three hundred and sixty houses.

The church of St. John Baptist, valued in 1292 at twenty-four marks,<sup>b</sup> and of which the Rev. Mr. Pratt is the present incumbent, stands on the north side of the High-street, and is a very neat, light structure with a fine lofty tower.

In the chancel are two ancient tombs, one on each side; that on the north side was erected to the memory of one Richard Atwell, who died in the year 1472. This Atwell contributed to the repair of the church, and gave thereto several buildings in the High-street. In the other tomb, which is constructed in a similar manner, lies Joan his wife, who was a benefactress to the abbey.

\* MSS. Notes by Savage, 1677.

<sup>b</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

Against the south wall stands an old tomb of one John Camel, purse-bearer to one of the abbots, whose name is punned upon in divers representations of camels, and scrolls of Latin verses, now not wholly intelligible.

On the floor is a blue stone inscribed to the memory of Alexander Dyer and Catherine his wife, of Street near Glastonbury. He died March 7, 1633; she Sept. 26, 1650. As also to the memory of Captain John Dyer, who died April 24, 1670. Arms: *Argent*, dancettée.

On the north side of the communion-table there is a mural monument inscribed to the memory of Mary Trent, who died April 20, 1753, aged 33. Arms: *Azure*, three chevronels *or*, in chief two roses *argent*, impaled with, paly, *argent* and *sable*, two fleurs-de-lis counterchanged.

On a flat stone is an almost obliterated inscription to the memory of the Rev. Edmund Byron, M. A.

The church of St. Benedict, or the lower church, stands in the West-street, and was built by Abbot Beer, the initials of whose name are carved in a shield between a garland surmounted by a mitre for the abbey over the north door; and on a battlement above is a cross with two cups and *R. B.* at the bottom.

Within the church, in a pew belonging to the Golds' family of Sharpham-Park, is a flat stone with this inscription:—

“ En depositas, Lector, sub hoc marmore reliquias integerrimi viri Henrici Gold, de villa Sharphamiensi equitis aurati, Banci Reginensis Justiciarii prudentissimi: cujus anima, corporis domicilio soluta, ad Deum creatorem remigravit Martij die xxvi, anno Annæ Reginæ ix<sup>o</sup>. ætatis suæ LXVII, redemptionis nostræ MDCCX.” Arms: *Azure*, a lion rampant *or*, between three scrolls *argent*, Gold; impaling, on a bar between three lions passant, as many crosses patée.

Not only the town, but the environs of Glastonbury, abound with religious reliques. The most conspicuous is the Tor or Tower of St. Michael, standing upon a very high hill, northeastward from the town, on which poor Whiting met his untimely end. On this bleak and desolate spot the saints Phaganus and Diruvianus erected a small oratory to the honour of St. Michael the archangel,<sup>c</sup> which was re-edified by St. Patrick, and beautified by some of his successors. The succeeding abbots enlarged upon the ancient plan, and here built not only a large and elegant church and monastery; but also other buildings, dwelling-houses, and offices; and obtained many grants of privileges from several of the kings; one of which was from Henry I. to the precentor of the church of Glastonbury, appointing him to have yearly a fair at the monastery of St. Michael de Torre in the isle of Glaston, belonging to the chantry of the abbey of Glastonbury, to last for six days, viz. for five days before the feast of St. Michael, and on the day of that feast, in the same place where the fair used to be held for two days only, viz. on the eve and day of the same saint; with all liberties and free customs usually belonging to fairs of like sort, provided the said fair be not to the detriment of other fairs in the neighbourhood.<sup>d</sup> The witnesses to this charter were,

<sup>c</sup> See the former part of this account, and vol. i. p. 76, note <sup>1</sup>.

<sup>d</sup> Cart. 27 Hen. I.



William Longespee, John Fitz-Gefferey, Philip Bassett, Hugh de Vivon, Alan la Zouche, John de Pleffeto, Gefferey Dispencer, Robert de Muscegros, Paulin Peyner, Nicholas de Bolewil, Walter de Luytone, and others. The whole of the buildings which had been erected on this hill by several abbots, at a vast expence, the labour being very great to convey materials up the immense ascent, were totally destroyed by the earthquake which happened in 1271, but afterwards more splendidly rebuilt, and that church erected, of which the tower still remains, and lifts its head into the clouds, an object of admiration to travellers, and an ornament to the surrounding country. At the west end of it is carved the figure of St. Michael the archangel, holding in his hand a pair of scales, in one of which is the bible, in the other a devil, and another devil hanging by striving to make weight; but are both too light. This curious remnant of antiquity is the property of Sir Richard Colt Hoare, bart. who has rescued it, as well as that of King Alfred's tower at Stourton, (both in view of each other) from oblivion, by the annexed plate.

At the foot of this hill is the hamlet of EDGARLEY, where was a chapel dedicated to St. Dunstan; but at the dissolution converted into a barn.

In the Isle of BEOKERY was likewise a chapel to the honour of St. Bridget, now entirely in ruins.

Southwest from the town is WEARYALL-HILL, an eminence so called (if we will believe the monkish writers) from St. Joseph and his companions sitting down here all weary with their journey. Here St. Joseph stuck his stick into the earth, which, although a dry hawthorn staff, thenceforth grew, and constantly budded on Christmas-day. It had two trunks or bodies, till the time of Queen Elizabeth, when a puritan exterminated one, and left the other, which was of the size of a common man, to be viewed in wonder by strangers; and the blossoms thereof were esteemed such curiosities by people of all nations, that the Bristol merchants made a traffick of them, and exported them into foreign parts. In the great rebellion, during the time of King Charles I. the remaining trunk of this tree was also cut down; but other trees from its branches are still growing in many gardens of Glastonbury, and in the different nurseries of this kingdom. It is probable that the monks of Glastonbury procured this tree from Palestine, where abundance of the same sort grow, and flower about the same time. Where this thorn grew is said to have been a nunnery dedicated to St. Peter, without the pale of Weriel-Park, belonging to the abbey.

Besides this holy thorn, there grew in the abbey-church-yard, on the north side of St. Joseph's chapel, a miraculous walnut-tree, which never budded forth before the feast of St. Barnabas, viz. the eleventh of June; and on that very day shot forth leaves and flourished like its usual species. This tree is also gone, and in the place thereof stands a very fine walnut-tree of the common sort.

It is strange to say how much both these trees were sought after by the credulous; and though the former was a common thorn, and the latter not an uncommon walnut, Queen Anne, King James, and many of the nobility of the realm, even when the times of monkish superstition had ceased, gave large sums of money for small cuttings from the original.

Nor did the rage of superstition cease to harass this ancient but desolated place till the year 1751, when thousands of itinerants found reason to complain of their journeys hither, and in heaviness returning, lament their ill-drawn purses.\*

One Matthew Chancellor, a parishioner of North-Wotton, near the town, who had been afflicted with an asthma thirty years, gave out upon oath, that about the middle of October 1750, having had in the night-time a violent fit, and afterwards falling asleep, he dreamed that he was at Glastonbury, some way above Chain-gate in the horse track, and there saw some of the clearest water he ever saw in all his life, and that he kneeled down on his knees and heartily drank thereof. As soon as he stood up, there seemed to be a person standing before him, who, pointing with his finger to the spring, addressed him thus:—"If you will go to that freestone shoot, and take a clean glass, and drink a glass full fasting seven Sunday mornings following, and let no person see you, you will find a perfect cure of your disorder, and then make it publick to all the world." He asked him, "Why seven Sunday mornings?" and was answered, that "the world was made in six days, and on the seventh God Almighty rested from his labour and blessed it above other days. Besides (continues he) this water comes from out of the holy ground where a great many saints and martyrs have been buried." He further told him something concerning our Saviour's being baptized in the river Jordan, but that he could not remember it distinctly when he awoke. In consequence of this conversation, the man went the Sunday morning following to Glastonbury, which is about three miles from the place where he lived, and found it exactly according to his dream; but it being a dry time, and the water not running very plentifully, he dipped the glass three times into the hole under where the shoot dropped, took up to the value of a glass full, and drank it, giving God thanks. He continued to do so seven Sundays, and perfectly recovered from his disorder.

It is incredible how eagerly this ridiculous story was credited. People of all denominations flocked hither from every part of the kingdom, to partake of the waters of this salubrious stream. Every inn and house in Glastonbury and its environs were crowded with guests and lodgers, and it is a fact well authenticated, that the town in the month of May 1751, contained upwards of ten thousand strangers. If the reader would wish to know the success which these itinerant invalids experienced from their visit, he must be informed that this spring, discovered by a vision in the night season, was no more than a spring of common fair water, possessing no medical properties whatever; and that the whole story was designedly trumped up with a view of bringing custom to the town, which had strangely dwindled since the demolition of its abbey. The spring is in the road to Shepton-Mallet under the Tor hill.

Before we conclude our account of this place, we must not omit mentioning the very ancient pyramids which are recorded by William of Malmesbury to have stood in the

\* Mr. Ashmole, the Rosicrucian of noted memory, tells us, that Edward Kelley, the famous Worcester necromancer, and his friend and companion Dr. Dee, had the good fortune to find a large quantity of the Elixir, or Philosopher's Stone, in the ruins of the abbey. This Elixir is said to have been so surprisingly rich, that a great deal was lost in trials and projections before they discovered the force of its virtue. Biog. Dict. vii. 513. Art. Kelley.



abbot's church-yard about the sarcophagus of King Arthur. The tallest, and that which stood nearest to the church, was twenty-six feet in height, and consisted of five courses or stories. In the upper course was the figure of a bishop; in the second a King, with this inscription, HER. SEXI. and BLISVVERH. In the third the names WEMCRESTE, BANTOMP, WENETHEGN. In the fourth, IATE. WVLFREDE and EANFLEDE. In the fifth and lowest the figure of an abbot, with the following inscription, LOGVVOR WESLIELAS, and BREGDENE, SVVELVVES, HVVINGENDES, and BERNE. The other pyramid was eighteen feet high, and consisted of four stories, whereon were inscribed, in large characters, HEDDE Episcopus, BREGORRED and BEORVVALDE.<sup>f</sup> These pillars, which have for many hundred years been buried in the dust, commemorated some of the early abbots, who were interred underneath them.

The seal of the abbey was differently charged: One coat was *Vert*, a cross bottonnée *argent*, on a canton of the last the Virgin Mary and Child: The other, *Vert*, a cross bottonnée *argent*; on the dexter chief quarter the Virgin Mary holding the Infant in her dexter arm; and in the sinister a sceptre *or*; in each of the other quarters a ducal crown of the last.

In the terrier<sup>g</sup> of Richard Beere, the last abbot of Glastonbury but one, we find an account of the state of the town, its government, and other matters, in the time of Henry VIII.

"In the town of Glastonbury is a certain hall, lately built by Richard Lord Abbot, for courts and sessions, and meetings of the sheriffs and justices of the peace, within the liberties of the twelve hides; under which is a gaol for the confinement of prisoners. A sheriff's court is held there once at Hock, and again at the feast of St. Michael; at which courts attend all the free tenants within the twelve hides. At the same attend the underwritten tithings, and pay their common fines, viz.

	£.	s.	d.
"The tithing of Pathenborgh pays in common fines to the said courts	0	4	0
The tithing of Northlodé	0	3	0
The tithing of Mere pays no fine, but suit			
The tithings of Wotton and Westhome, the same			
The tithing of West-Pennard, common fines	0	12	0
Bradlye pays no fine, but suit			
Baltoneborgh per annum in fines	0	8	0
Estrete	0	2	0
Edgarly	0	6	0
Sum total per annum	0	35	0

"The sheriffs of the twelve hides hold their meetings from month to month.

"There are also two coroners elected by writ of the Lord Abbot, and amoveable at his pleasure, who inspect all misdemeanors within the twelve hides, receive the

<sup>f</sup> Guilielm. Malmesb. Hist.

<sup>g</sup> Johan. Glaston. Hist. de Reb. Glaston. ii. 306.

abjurations of felons, and record such things as belong to the coroner's office, before the itinerant justices and others within the hides.

" There is a market kept every week on Wednesday.

" There is also a certain portnote twice a year, viz. at Hock, and at the feast of St. Michael, in which all sorts of weights and measures of sellers and buyers within the twelve hides are tried and proved; and all sellers of bread and ale contrary to the assize tried and punished.

" There is a fair on St. Dunstan's day, now not in use. There is a certain fair on the day of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, which is now also discontinued.

" There is also a fair at the Torre on the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which lasts generally for six days, the toll for which is estimated at 26s. 8d. per annum. A fair is likewise kept there on the feast of St. Michael.

" There is a certain pasture under the south side of Wyrehall-Park, called *Vyneyard*, consisting of five closes very pleasantly situated.

" There is another park called *Sherphame*, containing with some mead inclosures in the circuit thereof three hundred and eighty-two acres. In this park Abbot Richard lately built at his own expence a very handsome manor-house, with a chapel, hall, parlour, chambers, storehouses, kitchen, and other rooms and offices, having a stone wall on one side and oak pales on the other, with an orchard and fishponds. In which park might be kept four hundred deer, and forty large cattle.

" There is a moor, called *Hultmore*, with the alderwood, containing two hundred and eighty-three acres.

" Another moor is called *Hetbmore*, containing with the heath eight hundred acres.

" A third moor is called *Southmore*, or *Allermore*, containing one thousand and forty acres, the herbage of which is used in common by the different tenants, and all the firing appertains to the monastery; in which moor no chace could formerly be made by reason of the thickness of the alders, and the depth of the morasses.

" A fourth common moor is called *Northmore*, and contains six hundred and forty acres.

" The last common moor is called *Kynnyard-More*, containing by admeasurement four hundred and thirty acres.

" There is likewise a new water-mill, situated at *NORTHOVER*, and erected by Abbot Richard, which mill brings in yearly ten pounds, one hundred shillings of which are appropriated to the support of the poor women in the hospital, founded by the said abbot, at the outward abbey gate; and ten shillings to the sexton for the tithe of the mill.

" There is another mill called *Becary* mill, and a new fulling-mill lately erected by the said Lord Abbot; as also a water-mill in the town, and a wind-mill above it."

Sharpham-Park gave birth to that elegant and humorous writer Henry Fielding, April 22, 1707. His father Edmund Fielding, esq; who was a younger son of the Earl



Earl of Denbigh, was in the army in the rank of lieutenant-general; and his mother was the daughter of Judge Gould, and aunt to the present Sir Henry Gould, of Sharp-ham, one of the judges of the common-pleas. His dramatick works are very numerous and all comick, but his novels are most esteemed, and perhaps no writer ever painted human life in stronger colours than he has in most of them. He died at Lisbon in 1754, in the forty-eighth year of his age.

The title of *Avalon*, the ancient appellation of the district we have been describing, was granted by King Charles II. July 10, 1659, to John Mordaunt, second son of John Earl of Peterborough, who married Elizabeth, daughter and sole heir of Thomas Carey, second son to Robert Earl of Monmouth, and by her had Charles third Earl of Peterborough, and father of the present Charles Mordaunt, Earl of Peterborough and Monmouth, Viscount Avalon, &c.

## B A L T O N S B U R Y.

**S**OUTHEAST from Glastonbury, on the river Brew, stands Baltonsbury, the manor of which was A. D. 745 given to the monks by one Lulla, a devout lady, and great benefactress to the abbey.<sup>a</sup> In the Conqueror's time the church held it in demesne:

“ The church itself holds BALTUNESBERGE. In the time of King Edward it gelded for five hides. The arable is six carucates. Thereof in demesne are four hides, and one virgate. And there are two carucates, and four servants, and five villanes, and nine bordars, and three cottagers with two ploughs. There is a mill of five shillings rent, and thirty acres of meadow. Wood one mile and a half long, and half a mile broad. It was and is worth six pounds.”<sup>b</sup>

The mill mentioned in this account was broken down by Joceline bishop of Bath, which was one of the complaints exhibited by the monks against that prelate in their contentions about the government of the abbey.<sup>c</sup> There is yet a mill standing upon the ruins of the old one on the river Brew.

The tithing of Baltonsbury paid yearly eight shillings to the abbot's torn at Glaston.<sup>d</sup>

After the dissolution the manor was granted to Edward Duke of Somerset, in whose schedule it is valued at 39l. 18s. 5½d. per annum;<sup>e</sup> and on his attainder Edw. VI. gave it to John Ryther, esq. 8 Eliz. a moiety of it belonged to William Hungate, of Saxton in Yorkshire. In the same reign Sir William St. Loe held lands here. The fee-farm rents of the manor now belong to John Codrington, esq.

The roll of Glastonbury surveys this manor of Baltonsbury, as follows:

<sup>a</sup> Guilielm. Malmesb. ap. Adam. Domesham, i. 62.

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>c</sup> Adam. Domesham. ii. 452.

<sup>d</sup> Fin. Com. Somers.

<sup>e</sup> MS. Valor.

## " THE MANOR OF BALTESBOROUGH.

*" Rentes and Demaynes.*

" The rentes of assise, customary tennantes, and demaynes, perteynyng to the faide manour, are of the yerely valew of 101l. 7s. 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.

*" Perquisites of Courtes and Fynes.*

" The profitts of the courtes, fynes, and other casualties, as appereth in the bokes of accompts of this yere, are 33l. 16s. 3d.

*" Woodes.*

" Also there are two woodes pertaynyng unto the fayde manour, called Southwoode and Northwoode, contaynyng eight hundred acres, well sett with okes, bothe olde and yong, which have allwayes ben used to be solde to the tenautes, worthie to be solde 400l. wherein there may be a yerely wood-sale made of 63s. 6d.—138l. 7s. 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.

*" Able Men to serve the King.*

" Also there are within the fayde lordeship certayne tenautes, and able persons to do the King servyce, to the nombre of 23.

*" Bondmen.*

" Also there be within the same certayne bondemen, beyng in servytude both of bodye and goodes, at the King's pleasure, in nombre 7."

The parish of Baltonsbury contains six hamlets, viz.

MARTIN-STREET, SOUTHWOOD, LUEBON, and

HAMSTREET, TILLAM-STREET, WEST-TOWN,

most of which are mentioned in the ancient terriers of Glaston; but contain nothing remarkable.

The living is a chapel to Butleigh, with which it was in 1292 conjointly valued at twenty-two marks.<sup>5</sup>

The church is dedicated to St. Dunstan, and consists of a nave, chancel, and porch, with an embattled tower containing five bells.

Under the north wall of the chancel is an old tomb with this inscription:—  
" Ricardo Waltono, homini sanctissimo, stemmate claroque satis, mansuetudinis et misericordiæ incomparabilis, Thomas Waltonus, A. M. amatissimo patri posuit. Obt. 8 Julij 1581." In the stone are cut these coats, 1. A fleur-de-lis. 2. A chevron between three boars' heads. 3. The same quartered.

On a brass plate above—" Here under entombed doe lye the bodies of Richard Walton, of Baltonsborough, esq; and Alice his wife, one of the daughters of Ralphe Hanam, of Evercreech in this countie of Sommerfett, gent. deceased; and also the bodie of Thomas Walton, sonne and heir of the faide Richard Walton; who having spent his youth in the studies of learning in the universitie of Oxford, and in the inrs

<sup>5</sup> Langtoft's Chron. ii. 356, 357.

<sup>6</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.



of court in London, and his riper yeares in the practise of pietie and vertue, commended his soule into the hands of Almighty God the 18th day of Feb. 1609, leaving one sonne and three daughters by Elizabeth his wife, the only daughter of Philip Cottington, of Godmanston in the said countye, esquier.

“ A shroude, a coffin, and a marble stone,  
Are dead men's due; and may the living teach  
That when to ripeness they are fully grown,  
Death will the best and fairest flowers reach.  
For could a pious life have stay'd death's force,  
Hee yet hadd lived thatts here a lifeless corse.”

On this plate are two coats: 1. A chevron between three fleurs-de-lis. 2. On a fesse between three roses as many bugle-horns.

A black stone in the east wall commemorates Thomas Martin, gent. who was buried Dec. 21, 1714, and Mary his only daughter, who died July 4, 1650, ætat. 17.

B R A D L E Y.

**T**HIS parish lies four miles southeast from Glastonbury, (having the parish of Baltonsbury on the north) in a close flat and woody situation, the lands whereof are fertile, and the soil a clay.

It was given to the church of Glastonbury by King Ethelbald, and at the Conquest was thus surveyed:

“ Roger holds of the abbot BODESLEGE. Winegod held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three virgates of land. The arable is one carucate and a half, and there are on it seven cottagers. There are six acres of meadow, and two acres of wood. It is worth ten shillings.”

The manor now belongs to the Rev. Mr. Keate, of Wookey.

Bradley is a chapel to East-Pennard in the Deanery of Cary. The Rev. Mr. Foster is the present incumbent.

The chapel is a small structure, containing neither monument nor inscription.

\* Lib. Domesday.



## M E R E.

THIS parish is situated three miles northwest from Glastonbury, in that vast wild of moors or meres, from which (and from a very large mere or pond here) is justly derived its name, and which being formerly overflowed by the sea, three islands were formed called by the ancient natives *Ferramere* or *Ferlingmere*, *Godeneie*, and *Westeie*. The former of these constituted the village of *Mere* itself, the manor of which consisted of about two thousand eight hundred acres, and now belongs to the representatives of the late Mr. Thomas Moore of Bristol. *Godney* contains about two thousand acres inclosed, and about one thousand two hundred acres of moor, not yet inclosed, belonging to Mr. Brown of Street. *Westhay*-moor has of late years been inclosed, and comprises about one thousand seven hundred and sixty acres. That part of *Mere* called *Mere-pool*, which was formerly a stagnant water, contains about four hundred acres, and by draining is rendered valuable. In this pool, which according to the Glastonbury legends was instantaneously formed by the prayers of St. Benignus, was a large fishery reserved entirely for the abbot's use, and the amusement of his friends;<sup>a</sup> besides which there were several other pools or lakes in this district called *Hacchewere* and *Bordenwere*, in which was an eelery; *Lichlake* and *Cockeswere*, the latter of which was rented in 1516 by John Gyblat at twenty shillings per annum.<sup>b</sup> And there was also another pool called *Jameswere*, rented at thirteen shillings and fourpence in the time of Henry VII. but at the above date was in the hands of the Lord Abbot.<sup>c</sup> In these pools were kept a great number of swans,<sup>d</sup> herons, and other fowl.

In some of the moors are found quantities of large old yews, alders, birches, and willows, lying in all directions, at the depth of from one to five feet beneath the surface, with the largest branches and roots remaining; but which being exposed to air soon crumble into pieces. The moors also abound with the *myrica*, or sweet gale, a low shrub with spear-shaped, serrated leaves, bearing catkins and a dry berry. The northern nations formerly used this plant instead of hops. The catkins boiled in water throw up a waxy scum, which will make candles. And from another species of this plant, which is a native of warmer climates, the myrtle candles are prepared. Gathered in autumn, it dyes wool yellow; and it is likewise used in tanning calfskins. Horses and goats eat it. A fine aromattick plant called here cinnamon laver, (the *calamus-aromaticus* of the shops) or sweet-scented flag, grows in *Godney* moor.

Kenewalch, the seventh king of the West-Saxons, gave *Ferramere* with the two islands lying on each side the lake, called *Godney* and *Westhay*, to the abbey of Glastonbury, and the grant was confirmed by succeeding kings. Towards the Conquest it altered its name, and was simply called *Mere*, being surveyed in the Norman record under that title among the possessions of Glastonbury-abbey.<sup>e</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Terrar. Ricardi Beere in Johan. Glaston. Hist. ii. 317.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid.

<sup>d</sup> The Glastonbury Roll mentions forty-one couple of swans found here after the dissolution of the abbey.

<sup>e</sup> See page 244 of this vol.



After the dissolution, King Edw. VI. in the first year of his reign, granted the manor of *Mere* with divers other possessions of the church to Edward Duke of Somerset, and it was valued at 73l. 2s. 4d.<sup>1</sup> After which it passed to Gilbert Prynne, esq; and other hands, till it became vested as above-mentioned.

The manor-house, wherein the abbot kept his court, and whereto he frequently resorted with his friends, still exists, and is known by the name of *Mere-Farm*, being a very ancient structure, exhibiting the marks of time. It was built by abbot John Kent about the year 1300, but was greatly improved and beautified by abbot Richard Beere about the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII. and the precincts, including new offices, gardens, and orchards, were then surrounded with a high and thick wall, enclosing three acres and one perch of ground.<sup>2</sup> This mansion had a fair large hall, partly covered with lead and partly with slate, with eight fair chambers, a chapel, kitchen, buttery, and pantry, and all other offices suitable. "Fynally (says the old survey) the howse is fitt for a man of worship, but th'ayer thereof is not very holsome, savyng to suche as have contynued long therein."<sup>3</sup>

Neither the manors of *Godney*, nor *Westhay*, are noticed in the Norman record. The former is a considerable village, divided into two parts, called Upper and Lower Godney, situated about a mile northeast from the parish church of Mere. In this village a chapel was erected in ancient times to the honour of the Holy Trinity, and the oblations were appropriated to the vicar of Ferlingmere. Of this chapel a notable miracle was recorded; that notwithstanding the environs, by reason of the thick groves of trees, were constantly defiled by the ordure of different sorts of birds inhabiting the branches, yet this chapel was never known to be violated in like manner, or in the least to be touched by any of those pollutions.<sup>4</sup> In the place of the old chapel stands one of more recent construction, a small but neat building, thirty-one feet long, and twenty-eight broad, having this inscription at the west end: "This chapel (sacred to the Holy Trinity) was restored to its ancient use by Peter Davis, recorder of Wells, esq; in the year 1737." At the east end are cut in the stone, in two coats, the Holy Lamb and Eagle.

Among the ruins of Glastonbury-abbey there was found, in the year 1754, a seal, on which were represented the figure of St. Dunstan mitred and holding a crozier, and addressing himself to certain figures in a congregation opposite; at the bottom, the figure of a person kneeling and praying to the saint; and round the whole this legend: *S. Tome Capellani Dei Insula*. This Thomas was chaplain of Godney, or God's Island, (as it was heretofore called) and is supposed to have been designed by the figure at the feet of St. Dunstan.

WESTHAY stands half a mile nearly westward from the church, and contains about twenty-five houses, which is nearly the same number with those in Godney. Here also was a chapel long since ruined.

<sup>1</sup> MS. Valor.<sup>2</sup> Johan. Glaston. ii. 316.<sup>3</sup> Glastonbury Roll above quoted.<sup>4</sup> Johan. Glaston. Hist. ii. 315.

Another village called STILVEY, or STIVELEIGH, stands half a mile southeast from the church, containing a few farms.

The church of Mere, valued in 1292 at six marks and a half,<sup>\*</sup> was appropriated to the abbey of Glastonbury, and a vicarage ordained A. D. 1351, when it was instituted that the vicar should have the parsonage-house, with all the arable land and meadow which the rector holds in demesne, with common for all kinds of beasts with the abbot of Glastonbury's tenants in all parts within the bounds and limits of the parish of Mere, and common for four oxen and one heifer with the oxen of the religious in the places usual to the rector of Mere. He was also to receive all oblations to the said church arising from anniversaries and legacies; the tithes of calves, pigs, geese, flax, hemp, milk, cheese, wool, lambs, eggs, gardens, or curtilages, reed-walks, mills, pullets, and pigeons, from the tenants of the abbot and convent, parishioners there; as also the large and small tithes of two tenements, called *Pauneburgh*, and *Martenesey*; and the tithes of the meads called *Monekemedede* and *Anneveresmedede*, and the dairy there; but the vicar to have or claim no tithes whatsoever from the fruits or goods in the lands, or places, or water, in the demesnes of the said religious, or of the animals there depasturing; or of the fishes in the fisheries there, except as above expressed. Nor shall the abbot and convent receive any tithes from the arable lands or meadows assigned to the vicar for his portion, or from his animals; but all mortuaries, church dues, and all other things not assigned to the vicar, and belonging or due to the said church of Mere, the abbot and convent of Glastonbury shall wholly receive and enjoy. It shall also be incumbent on every vicar to find bread, wine, incense, processional candles, and other lights in the said church, bind the books used therein, wash the vestments, and repair those and all other ornaments belonging thereto, which had usually been done by the rector. The abbot and convent to support all other burdens either by right or custom incumbent on the said church, as well ordinary as extraordinary. Dated at Banwell 15 Kal. Oct. 1351.<sup>1</sup>

The living of Mere is a vicarage in the jurisdiction of Glaston, and in the gift of Mrs. Cook, — Brown, esq; and John Strode, esq. The Rev. Robert Purcel is the present incumbent.

The church which is dedicated to St. Mary, and stands on a small eminence, is a large Gothick structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, and two side ailes, all except the chancel covered with lead. At the west end is a large embattled tower, containing six bells and a clock.

The east window of the north aisle contains very fine old painted glass, in which are several historical groups of fine figures; but much obscured by dirt. The principal are the administration of Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and Extreme Unction. In several other windows there is also some painted glass; but defaced by time. The whole upper part of the great arch which divides the nave from the belfry is filled up with an ancient painting, on the top of which is the cross triumphant in the clouds, surrounded by the celestial choir sounding instruments of musick. In the lower part is

<sup>\*</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

<sup>1</sup> Excerpt. c Regist. Wellen.



Peter with the keys, Moses and Aaron, David playing on his harp, Hope with her anchor, Justice with the sword, and several other figures. In the center is a cherub holding open the New Testament.

Some of the monks of Glastonbury are said to have been buried here; but none of their memorials remain.

In the street at the corner of the church-yard stands an old stone cross.

## W E S T - P E N N A R D

**L**IES three miles east from Glastonbury, and in the turnpike-road from that town to Shepton-Mallet. It is situated on the western slope of a hill, in a woody country, near the side of the moors; but the southern part of the parish is high land, being a ridge of hills running from Pill to within one mile of the Tor at Glastonbury. From these high lands there is a fine prospect. It consists of five hamlets:

1. EAST-STREET, one mile northwest of the church.
2. NEW-TOWN and LAVERLEY, along the turnpike road leading to Pilton.
3. HIGHER and LOWER SOUTH-TOWN, half a mile south.
4. STICKLINGS, or STICKLINCH, half a mile northeast.
5. WOODLANDS, one mile southwest.

The manor of Pennard was given to the church of Glastonbury by Baldred king of Kent, and consisted of six hides. It is included in the great Norman survey under *Pennarminstre*, or East-Pennard, with which it was held till the dissolution of the monastery, and was then granted to the Duke of Somerset, being of the yearly value of 36l. 1s. 1d.<sup>m</sup>

The church of West-Pennard was annexed to the churches of St. John and St. Benignus in Glastonbury, and the rectories thereof were after the dissolution vested in the crown till the year 1547, when William bishop of Bath and Wells obtained of King Edward VI. the church and rectory of St. John Baptist in Glastonbury, and the rectory or the chapel of St. Benignus within the town of Glastonbury; as also the rectories or chapels of Bradley and West-Pennard, and the churches and rectories of Northlode, East-Brent, East-Pennard, and Weston, and the advowson and right of patronage of those churches, with all their lands, tithes, profits, and revenues, in consideration of conceding to the King the manors of Claverton, Hampton, Lydiard, Chard, Cheddar, Huish, and other possessions in this county, in Gloucestershire, and in the city of London.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> MS. Valor.

<sup>a</sup> Rymer Fœd. tom. xv. p. 171.

The church is dedicated to St. Nicholas, and is a large Gothick edifice, one hundred feet in length, and forty-four in breadth, having a nave, chancel, and side ailes, covered with lead, and a large tower at the west end containing five bells.

In the church are divers mural stones to the memory of the families of Grant, Walter, and Burges.

In the church-yard is a fine yew tree, and a well-preserved stone cross.

Here is a charity-school, endowed by Robert Slade, esq; about the year 1756, with ten pounds per annum for teaching ten poor children to read.

## NORTH-WOTTON

**I**S a small parish six miles east from Glastonbury, pleasantly and picturesquely situated in a narrow warm vale enclosed on all sides, except the west, by lofty steep hills cultivated and wooded. The hills towards the north are called *Lancelly-Hills*; and to the east is *Worminster-Hill*, a fine sheep flade. The slopes of these hills are very steep; and those towards the south are in many places fissured from their tops. The gutters, or chasms, are too deep to have been formed by land floods, and bear evident marks of antiquity; on the edges and slopes of them are old pollard trees and shrubs, with deep channels in the stone, seeming to be the venerable vestiges of the general deluge.

A small brook, formed by several springs which rise in the parish of Pilton, runs through and turns two overshot grist-mills in this parish, continuing its course through the moors to Mere river. The lands are mostly pasture and meadow; and here are several quarries of blue lyas stone.

In the year of our Lord 760, Kinulph, king of the West-Saxons, gave to Guban abbot of Glastonbury, who presided two years over that monastery, the manor of *Wudetone*, consisting of five hides:<sup>a</sup> which five hides in succeeding times were afterwards incorporated into the great manor of Pilton, and at the Conquest were held by one Adret, Eddret, or Aldred (as he is sometimes called,) a thane of distinction, who at the coming in of the Normans, was retained in the court of King William; but afterwards dismissed with the gratuity of divers lands in the west of England.<sup>b</sup>

“Of the same land of this manor [PILTONE] Adret holds of the Abbot five hides in UTONÉ.”<sup>c</sup>

The manor belongs to William Gore Langton, of Newton St. Loe, esq.

<sup>a</sup> Guilielm. Malmesbur. de Antiq. Glaston. Eccles. in Adam. Domesham. i. 63.

<sup>b</sup> Excerpt. e Chronic. Glaston. MS.

<sup>c</sup> Lib. Domesday.



The living is a vicarage in the deanery of Cary; and has always been annexed to Pilton, which is the mother church. The Rev. Mr. Hopkins is the present incumbent.

The church is a small building of one pace, wherein nothing remarkable occurs as to monuments or particularity of construction. An embattled tower at the west end contains three bells.

At Syckedon in Devonshire certain lands of the yearly rent of 26s. 8d. and six acres of land in Pilton, were given for the support of lights in the chapel of Wotton; which lands were sold by commissioners, appointed by Queen Mary, in 1557, to Henry Portman, esq.<sup>d</sup>

In the church-yard is an old yew-tree.

The average births in this parish annually are nine; the burials four.

The parish consists of about forty houses, and nearly three hundred inhabitants.

<sup>d</sup> Harl. MS. 606, p. 45.







## THE HUNDRED OF HARECLIVE AND BEDMINSTER.

**P**ARTLY within the parish of Barrow, and partly within that of Winford, is a rock or cliff, called *Hare-Clive*, or *Cliff*, which gives name to the Hundred now united with that of Bedminster. At this spot the courts for the Hundred were formerly held, and the usual business transacted; it being customary in ancient times to convene public meetings in some one of the most conspicuous places in the district over which any particular jurisdiction extended. The name is obviously derived from the Saxon *Here*, which signifies an army, and *Clif*, a steep or craggy rock. In this neighbourhood there is also a road called *Hare-Lane*, having the same signification; the former expressing the military rock, the latter the military way. Through these parts passed in its track towards the Severn sea, that ancient famous boundary called *Wansdike*, formed by Belgick warriors previous to the invasion of this kingdom by the Romans.<sup>a</sup> And considering the many battles which must have been fought, upon a rampart raised by a foreign enemy to repel the *Aborigines*, or ancient natives of this country, who were equally fierce and warlike with themselves, and very tenacious of the smallest part of their territories; it is not to be wondered why this cliff and this lane, both seated on this important boundary, obtained the appellation of *Harecliff* and *Harelane*. A family of some account derived their name from Hareclive, from which we may conclude this spot was once peopled with inhabitants.

With regard to the property of the conjoined hundreds of Hareclive and Bedminster, it is to be observed that they originally were parcel of the crown. In the hundred of Bedminster were six hides, from which the King received a tribute of twenty-four shillings, as for four of those hides; Osbert Giffard held a fifth in demesne, and Turstin the sixth in free alms.<sup>b</sup> The hundreds were afterwards held of the honour of Gloucester by the Fitz-Hardings and the Berkeleys, and thenceforth by the successive lords of the manor of Bedminster, where the court for that hundred is now held; but the court for that of Hareclive is held at Long-Ashton. A constable is chosen for each.

<sup>a</sup> See vol. i. p. 170.

<sup>b</sup> Inquisitio Gheldi in Sumerfeta.

This hundred, which is situated in the northern verge of the county, extending from Chew on the east, and Wrington on the west, to the city and county of Bristol, contains the following parishes:

BEDMINSTER	BARROW	NEMNET
LONG-ASHTON	BUTCOMBE	and
BACKWELL	CHELVY	WINFORD.

Of which we shall treat in order.

## B E D M I N S T E R.

**T**HIS parish, which in ancient times consisted of only a few cottages, is now grown so populous and crowded with buildings, as to form a very considerable suburb to the city of Bristol, the principal street being the great road thence into from the western parts of England.

Bedminster was formerly parcel of the possession of the Saxon kings, and was never alienated from the crown till after the Norman Conquest. The Domesday survey thus describes it:

“ The King holds BEIMINSTRE. King Edward held it. It never was assessed to the geld; nor is it known how many hides it contains. The arable is twenty-six carucates. Three carucates are in demesne, and there are three servants, and twenty-five villanes, and twenty-two cottagers, with ten ploughs. There is a mill of five shillings rent, and thirty-four acres of meadow. Wood two miles long, and one mile broad. It pays twenty-one pounds, and twopence halfpenny, every ore being of the value of twenty pence.

“ The priest of this manor holds land to the amount of one carucate, and it is worth twenty shillings.

“ Of this manor the bishop of Coutances holds one hundred and thirteen acres of meadow and wood.”

King William II. when he conferred the honour of Gloucester on Robert Fitz-Hamon, who came into England with William Duke of Normandy his father, granted him this manor and hundred, with divers other large estates, to support that dignity, whereto he willed them to be annexed for ever. Robert left only four daughters, the eldest of whom, Mabel, being the wife of Robert the natural son of King Henry I. he in 1100, was created Earl of Gloucester, by the name of Robert of Mellent, and died in 1147.

• Lib. Domesday.

Of



Of this Robert the manor of Bedminster was held by Robert Fitz-Harding, the son of Harding, governor of Bristol in the time of William the Conqueror, a person of high extraction, being descended from the Kings of Denmark. This Robert Fitz-Harding was progenitor of the Berkeley family, and dying in 1170, was buried in the abbey-church of St. Augustine in Bristol, which he himself had founded.<sup>b</sup>

Maurice his son, surnamed de Berkeley, from that his lordship in Gloucestershire, was a great benefactor to his father's, as well as to other religious foundations. He died in 1189, and was succeeded by Robert his eldest son.

Which Robert de Berkeley founded in the village of Bedminster, to the honour of St. Catherine, an hospital for a master, or warden, and several poor brethren, which his brother Sir Thomas de Berkeley confirmed, and gave to it lands and tenements in Bishopworth within this parish. This Robert also founded a chantry in his manor-house here, and another in his chapel at Portbury.<sup>d</sup>

Thomas de Berkeley, his brother and heir, acquired himself a name from his piety and religious benefactions. He died in 1243, and was buried in St. Augustine's abbey.

Maurice, his eldest son, had livery of this manor 28 Hen. III.<sup>e</sup> and 46 of the same reign obtained of the King a charter of free warren in all his lands lying in Bedminster, Portbury, and other places.<sup>f</sup> 31 Henry III. this Maurice gave a mill and lands in Bedminster to the monastery of Whitland in the county of Brecon, for the sake of his own soul and the soul of Isabel his wife. He died 9 Edw. I. seized of this manor, and Redcliff-street without Bristol belonging thereto, leaving issue Thomas his son and heir then thirty years of age.<sup>g</sup>

Which Thomas fortified and embattled his mansion-house at Bedminster, and enlarged the buildings of the hospital.<sup>h</sup> He died in 1321, and was succeeded by Maurice de Berkeley his eldest son.

This Maurice de Berkeley 23 Edw. I. was summoned to parliament by the title of Lord Berkeley, of Berkeley-castle in the county of Gloucester. 10 Edw. II. he built a priory on the Flat-Holmes in the Bristol channel, and gave thereto lands in his manor of Portbury.<sup>i</sup> He died in 1326, 19 Edw. II.

Sir Thomas Berkeley, his eldest son, succeeded to the title and estate; and 4 Edw. III. had a full confirmation of the manor of Bedminster with all its appertenance.<sup>k</sup> 11 Edw. III. he gave an annual rent of thirty shillings out of this manor for a priest to sing in the abbey-church of St. Augustine's in Bristol, for the soul of Margaret his wife, his own soul, and all the faithful deceased.<sup>l</sup> He likewise founded a chantry in the chapel of St. Catherine in Bedminster, 19 Edw. III. for a priest to say mass for Lord Maurice his father, and for Margaret his wife, and himself after his decease: which chantry he endowed with lands in Bedminster and Portbury.<sup>m</sup> 21 Edw. III. he erected

<sup>b</sup> Tanner's Notitia Monastica.    <sup>c</sup> Itin. Willelmi de Worcestre, 294, 295.    <sup>d</sup> Dugd. Bar. i. 352.

<sup>e</sup> Rot. fin. 28 Hen. III.    <sup>f</sup> Cart. 46 Hen. III.    <sup>g</sup> Efc.    <sup>h</sup> Pat. 25 Edw. I.    <sup>i</sup> MS. Notes by Savage.

<sup>k</sup> Cart. 4 Edw. III. n. 62.    <sup>l</sup> Pat. 11 Edw. III. p. 2. m. 3.    <sup>m</sup> Rot. claus. 19 Edw. III.

an hermitage in Bedminster, and gave to the master of St. Catherine's hospital a parcel of land near it to pray for the souls of his father, mother, and wife.<sup>a</sup> He died in 1361, leaving issue,

Sir Maurice, the third Lord Berkeley, who was also a great founder of chantries; attending the Black Prince into Gascoigne, he received such wounds at the battle of Poitiers, as ended his days June 8, 1367, being then seized of the manors of Bedminster, Portbury, and Portishead; as also the hundred of Hareclive and Bedminster.

His successor was Thomas the fourth Lord Berkeley, who was the last of the family that possessed this manor; for dying in 1416 without issue male, Elizabeth his only daughter and heir transferred it with many other estates to her husband Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick.

The said Richard Beauchamp, at his death in 1439, left three daughters his coheiresses, viz. Margaret, wife of John Talbot earl of Shrewsbury; Eleanor, first married to Lord Roos, and afterwards to Edmund Beaufort marquis of Dorset and duke of Somerset; and Elizabeth wife to George Nevil lord Latimer. The manor of Bedminster came to Eleanor the second coheiress, whose daughter Margaret was married to Humphry earl of Stafford, father to Henry duke of Buckingham, and grandfather to Edward duke of Buckingham, who all successively possessed this manor and hundred. But the last-mentioned Duke being attainted in parliament 13 Henry VIII. it became confiscated to the crown, and that King the same year, March 12, granted it to Henry Bouchier earl of Essex, and the heirs male of his body. The said Earl was killed March 13, 1539, by a fall from his horse, and leaving no issue male, the manor of Bedminster reverted to the crown, and was granted in 1553, 1 and 2 Philip and Mary, to Edward Nevil and his heirs. From him it descended to Sir Henry Nevil his grandson, son and heir apparent of Edward lord Abergavenny, who in 1605 sold it to Sir Hugh Smyth, knt. from whom it has passed, in like manner with Long-Ashton, to Sir John Hugh Smyth, bart. and Edward Gore, esq; the present possessors. A patent of confirmation of this manor was granted to Sir Hugh Smyth, 7th of Dec. 11 James I.

St. Catherine's hospital, founded by Robert de Berkeley, lord of this manor, stood on the west side of the street near the bridge called *Brightbow-Bridge*, and was sometime since a glass-house; but is now converted into small tenements. Nothing remains of the original building except the east end of the chapel, where there is a Gothick window blocked up. The body of the chapel was forty-nine feet long, and twenty-one feet wide; the chancel twenty-seven feet long, and sixteen wide.<sup>o</sup>

16 June, 29 Eliz. the site of this hospital was granted to Edward Heron and John Nicholas, and their heirs, who the next year sold it to Henry Nevil, esq; by whose family it was conveyed to Sir Hugh Smyth, knt. and it is now the property of Sir John Hugh Smyth, bart.

The registers of Wells inform us, that it was not a house of religious at its first foundation; and that heretofore the warden or master had with him at a time three

<sup>a</sup> Dugd. Bar. i. 359, from papers in Berkeley-Castle.    • Itin. Willelm. de Worcestre, 294.



or four priests or brethren, who always wore the habit of secular priests; except that instead of the outer vest, they used a cope or mantle of black or burnet, with a St. Catherine's wheel of cloth of another colour sewed to the left breast. The revenues of this hospital never exceeded the yearly value of twenty-four pounds, out of which it paid to the rector of Bedminster an annual pension of six shillings and eightpence, and to the same church, on the feast of St. John the Baptist, two wax candles of a pound weight each.<sup>p</sup> In 1534, the revenues were valued at 21l. 15s. 10d.

The lords of the manor were the successive patrons; the masters were,

John, of Babcary, elected April 25, 1325.

Richard, of Borefordescote-Wyke, Sept. 30, 1327.

John Randolph, of Colehill, April 11, 1332.

John of Malmesbury, Oct. 22, 1338.

John of Eggesworth, Dec. 10, 1348.

William of Foston, April 14, 1349.

Walter of East-Ham, April 19, 1351.

John of Kilmerfdon, Oct. 29, 1353.

John Difford, 1373.

Nicholas de Barnstable, resigned 1413.

John Worthy, April 21, 1414.

John Dyer, Nov. 19, 1414.

John Coriscomb, 1420.

Thomas Fulford, D. D. a preaching friar, June 1, 1425.

Jacobus Akadenfis Episcopus, Oct. 11, 1432.

Henry Abyndon, musician of the king's chapel, 1478.<sup>q</sup>

Thomas Cofyn, B. D. Sept. 1, 1491 and 1497.

John Lloyd, April 21, 1513.

Richard Waldegrave, gentleman, a layman, May 12, 1523.

William Clarke, a layman, April 14, 1543.

John Aungel, 1566.

James Bond, B. D. Aug. 23, 1568.

John Bridgwater, canon residentiary of Wells, Nov. 23, 1570.

Edward Mowcroft, 1572.

Francis Nevil, May 26, 1573.

The prior of Stanley in Wiltshire had in 1444 an estate in Bedminster of the yearly value of two marks ten shillings. The abbot of Bruerne in Oxfordshire, had also three marks; and the abbot of Whitland in Brecknockshire one mark from the manor of Bedminster.

The revenues of St. Augustine's-abbey here were in 1293 valued at 8l. 15s.<sup>r</sup>

In this parish are six tithings, EAST, WEST, and NORTH tithings, KNOLLE, BISHOP-WORTH-ARTHUR, and BISHOPWORTH-LIONS.

<sup>p</sup> Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

<sup>q</sup> He presided here when William of Worcester wrote.

<sup>r</sup> Taxat. Temporal.

The tithing and hamlet of KNOLLE are situated southeast from the village of Bedminster. In the time of King William the Conqueror the manor of Knolle, then written *Canole*, was held by Osbern Giffard of the crown.

“ Osbern holds of the King, CANOLE. Alnod held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides. The arable is three carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and five villanes, and six cottagers, with two ploughs. There are sixteen acres of meadow, and twenty acres of pasture. Wood two-furlongs and a half long, and half a furlong broad. It was formerly worth thirty shillings, now forty shillings.”

The manor of Knolle was afterwards held of the Berkeleys by the family of Gournay, of whom John de Gournay 26 Edw. III. obtained licence of the King to grant a piece of land in Knolle, eighteen feet in length, and as many in breadth, in which there lay a certain fountain called *Ravenfwell*, to the prior and brethren of St. Augustine in the city of Bristol, for a subterraneous aqueduct to the house of the said prior.<sup>1</sup>

Here formerly was a chapel, long since ruined. 3 Edw. VI. it was granted with all lands and tithes to Richard Roberts.

BISHOPWORTH lies south from Bedminster; and in the *portway* from the city of Wells to that of Bristol. It belonged at the Conquest to the Bishop of Coutances, as we read in the survey:

“ Azeline holds of the Bishop, BISCOPEWRDE. Edric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide and a half. The arable is two carucates, and with it are four villanes, and four bordars, and four cottagers. There are ten acres of meadow, and forty-five acres of pasture. It was worth twenty shillings, now thirty shillings.”<sup>2</sup>

This manor (sometimes written Buishport) was formerly the property of a branch of the family of the Arthurs, of Clapton in the hundred of Portbury. Thomas Arthur was lord of it in 1312, and it continued in that family till the year 1558, when John Arthur dying without issue, it descended to Thomas Cross and Henry Mansewer, his nearest heirs, of whom it was purchased 12 Eliz. by Hugh Smyth, of Long-Ashton, esq; whose representatives, Sir John Hugh Smyth, bart. and Edward Gore, esq; now inherit it.

In this manor is an ancient house called *Inyn's-Court*, which in 1353 belonged to John Onewyn. Sir John Inyn was owner thereof, and died 1439. From him it descended to the Kenns of Kenn-Court, and by the marriage of Elizabeth coheirefs of Christopher Kenn with John the first Lord Poulett, passed into that family, and is now the property of the present Lord Poulett. In this house are these arms in painted glass:—A fesse *azure*, between four unicorns' heads, three in chief and one in base; impaling *azure* a chevron *ermine*, between three lions rampant, *argent*.

Another estate in this manor belonged to St. John's hospital at Redcliff-pit in Bristol, and is now divided among several freeholders. The Lyons of Whitchurch

<sup>1</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>2</sup> Inq. ad quod damnum, 26 Ed. III.

<sup>3</sup> Lib. Domesday.



had likewise estates here, which now belong to Sir John Hugh Smyth, bart. by purchase; and an estate also here belonged to St. Catherine's hospital, now James's and Hippley's.

John Arthur, lord of this manor, built a chapel on his waste lands in this village, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, by virtue of a licence from Gilbert de Dunster, canon of Salisbury, and prebendary of Bedminster.\* The building is now converted into a dwelling-house.

The church of Bedminster has flourished ever since the Saxon days, and has been endowed with large revenues; at the time of the Conquest, the then officiating priest here held within the manor and parish one carucate or ploughland (amounting to about one hundred and twenty acres) worth twenty shillings, or three pounds of our money; but which would now be worth three hundred pounds. In 1292 the church of Bedminster with its chapel, and the pension which it received from the vicarage, was rated at seventy marks, and the vicarage at eight marks.<sup>†</sup> It is a prebend in the cathedral church of Salisbury, and a court-baron is held here for the same. The Rev. Mr. Whish is prebendary of Bedminster, and the prebendal manor is held for lives under him by the college of Winchester. The Rev. Mr. Spry is the present incumbent of the vicarage, with the annexed chapels of Abbots-Leigh, Redcliff and St. Thomas in the city of Bristol.

The church is dedicated to St. John Baptist, and stands a little southward from the village, consisting of a nave, chancel, and north aisle. At the west end is a large square tower, with open ballustrades at top, containing a clock and two bells. On this tower once stood a steeple, which was thrown down in 1563.

\* Per istud scriptum indentatum sciant omnes ad quos presens scriptura pervenerit, quod ego G. de Dunsterre, canonicus Sarum, & prebendarius ecclesie de Bedmynstre, concessi libere & quiete parochianis meis de Byshopwourth, pro ayfamento illorum & commoditate divina audienda, capellam & cantariam in villa eorum construendam, super terram Roberti Arthur, ubi ipsi disposuerunt, in honore apostolorum Petri & Pauli imperpetuum. Habenda istis diebus in ebdomoda missa cum servicio diei; scilicet diebus Dominicis, diebus Veneris & Mercurii per capellanum meum de Bedmynstre; ita videlicet, quod si aliquis istorum dierum aliquo legitimo impedimento fuerit impeditus, diem illum in ebdomoda proxime sequenti illis fideliter restaurabit. Ad exhibicionem autem capellani qui illic ministrabit, parochiani predicti concesserunt de terris suis Deo & Ecclesie sancti Johannis de Bedmynstre, videlicet; Robertus Arthur illam placeam ubi capella est constructa & edificata; cum illo serlyngo terre & messuagio quod Isgod tenuit, in omnibus rebus, pratis, & ceteris pertinentiis suis; Galfridus de Bello monte unam acram in uno campo, & unam acram in alio campo; Robertus Ruffy 1 acram singulis annis; Arnulfus del Brock 1 acram singulis annis; Galfridus Byshop 1 acram singulis annis; sub hoc tenore, cantariam predictam illis concessam, ut illi qui de terris suis predictae ecclesie ejus occasione dederunt, ipsi & sui in perpetuum participium omnis honoris, quem in illam capellam sient, habeant, & divinorum ibi celebrandorum communionem. Ceteri autem ab illo participio sunt exclusi, & ad matricem ecclesiam, sicut solebant, revertantur. Et si contingat predicta cantaria esse substracta, omissa, vel deserta per unum mensem quando absit excusacio; tum liceat dicto Roberto Arthur, & heredibus suis, omnia predicta, terras & tenementa, ad dictam cantariam et datam et concessam, omnino ingredi, et in feodo possidere, sine aliquo impedimento vel calumpnia aliquorum successorum eorum. Ut vero hec concessio et imperpetuum rata & inconcussa permaneat, eam sigilli mei appositione roboravi. His T. Johanne abbate de sancta Augustino, Willielmo abbate de Eynsham, A. decano Wellensi, O. decano de Ferliga, Henrico Lufel, Willielmo capellano de Redcliva, Mauricio Luvel, Ricardo Luvel, S. persona de Winfrod, Hunfrido capellano de Altona, Rogero capellano de Leia, Hugone capellano, scriptore presentis carte, & multis aliis. Datum quinto die Maij anno regni regis Henrici quinto." The seal appendant to this deed has on it the representation of a person praying, and round it *Jesus est amor meus*.

<sup>†</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

There

There are several modern monuments and inscriptions in this church. The only ancient one is on a flat stone in the chancel for the family of Grinfield, whereon it is said that they settled in this parish in the second year of Edw. I. The arms on the stone are quarterly, 1. A sword in pale. 2. Two spurs leathered. 3. Two escallops in chief. 4. A fess lozengy.

By an inquisition taken on the goods of foreigners possessed of benefices within this diocese A. D. 1317, there were found in the parsonage-house of Bedminster, the following goods and chattels, belonging to Master Gerald de Tylleto, rector of the prebendal church of Bedminster, viz.

	s.	d.
" In primis 30 quarters of wheat at	6	8 per quarter.
20 quarters of beans	3	3
10 quarters of barley	4	0
15 quarters of oats	2	0

Rents of assize due as follow, viz. At Bedmynstre—William Sprente 18d. Adam de Vycheler 7d. John le Lom 7d. John Coky 12d. John Jorthelane 9d. Walter Cogel 9d. Thomas Doulay 9d. William le Couk 21d. Richard Holloker 20d. Richard Tobbe 12d. Isabell Tony 7½d. John Forst 7½d. John Hole Weye 18d. Walter Buryman 9s. Richard Calbac 9d. Walter Buryman 8½d. John Bac 3s. 9½d. The master of the house of St. Catherine 20d. Thomas Lovel of Legh 20d.

" Redclyve—William Wyt Wode 2s. Walter Faber 2s. George le Barbour 18d. The vicar of Redclyve for his pension 100s. Item for straw sold 10s. Of which Henry de Aston, rector of the church of Heie-risynden, in the diocese of Worcester, farmer of the said church of Bedmynstre, received 18l. 7s. 8d. and by the hands of the vicar of Redclyve 100s. for his pension."

The state of the church and chapels in Bedminster at the time of the Reformation appears

" In the certyficate of Sir Thomas Speke, knight, Sir Hugh Pawlet, knight, Sir John Seyntlowe, knight, Sir Thomas Dyer, knight, Sir John Rogers, knight, Robert Kelwaye, esquire, George Lynde, esquire, William Moryce, esquire, William Hartegyll, esquire, commissioners assigned by the letters patents of our Sovereigne Lord Edward the Sixt by the grace of God King of England, France, and Ireland, defender of the Faith, and of the Church of England, and also of Ireland, in earth the supreme hedd, bearing date the xiiij<sup>th</sup> day of February in the second yere of his most gracyous reigne to them directed for the survey of all and singular colliges, chauntries, free chappells, guylds, fraternities, brotheries, anniversaries whatsoever within the said countie [of Somerset,] gyven unto his highnesse by vertue of an act of parliament made in the first yere of his Majesties reigne in that behalfe provyded. Amongst others it is conteyned as followeth, viz.

\* Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.



## Decanatus de Bedmyster.

Is yerely worth in landes, tents and hereditam<sup>ts</sup> in the tenure of sondry psones as may appere peticulerly more at large by the rentall of the same xxjl. xv s. iiij d. whereof in rents resolute payd yerely vs. iiij d. And so remayneth clere xxjl. x s.

Bedmyster.

Plate and ornaments. } A chalice of silver waying viij oz. dī.  
Ornaments prayfed at iiij s. vj d.  
Bell metal clb.

The Free  
Chapell or  
Hospital of  
St. Katherine  
there

William Clerke, gent. (as it is said) maister of the same hospital by the kings lres patents not yet shewed.

Memoran<sup>t</sup> } There be noe poore people maynteyned or releved with the pmisses saveing that the said Master Clerke assigneth iij cottages pcell of the same hospitall worth yerely xx s. not charged in this value for the poore men to dwell in, and other relief they have none, but as God sendeth.

The priest alwayes incumbent before him was bound to say masse there thryse every weke.

No fundacōn shewed.

The Free  
Chapell of  
Knolle

Is yerely worth in landes, tents, tythes, hereditaments, and other profects in the tenure of sondry persons as may appere peticulerly more at large by the rentall of the same lxxvj s. viij d.

Plate and ornaments. } None but a chalice ix oz.  
Bell-metal dī. C.

Memoran<sup>t</sup> } John Bradley Clerke incumbent there. The chapel is distant from the pysh church a quarter of a myle.

The Cha-  
pell scituate  
within the  
Parishe  
Church-  
verde there

Is yerely worth in The rent of the same chapell in the occupying of the pyshenors there xij d.

The Cha-  
pell of St.  
Peter of  
Bysporte

Is yerely worth in The rent of the said chapell with a pece of grounde inclosed wherein the same chapell is scituate xx d.

Plate and ornaments. } A chalice of silver waying xix oz. dī.  
Ornaments prayfed at vi s. ij d.

Bell-metal dī. C.

Lights

Lights  
founded  
within the  
parishe  
churche  
ther

Are yerely worthe in **One** annuall rent to be levyed and received of the issues and revenues of the lands and tenements of John Kemys of Knolle vij*l*.

Memoran<sup>d</sup>

The psonage there is of the yerely value of xxviij*l*. whereof Henry Williams Clerke is now incumbent.

The vicarage there is of the yerely value of x*l*. whereof Nicholas Sampford Clerke is now incūbent, who findeth one priest to helpe to minister ther.

ptakers of the Lord's Holy Soop there cccxx psones.

## L O N G - A S H T O N.

**T**HIS parish, so denominated from its prolixity, adjoins to that of Bedminster westward, and is three miles distant from the city of Bristol. Its situation is extremely pleasant, being chiefly a rich and wooded vale, having the lofty ridge of Dundry on the south, and on the north a bleak picturesque range of hills, which, beginning at the disjointed cliffs of St. Vincent on the east, extend westward through the parishes of Leigh, Wraxal, Tickenham, and Clevedon, and as they pass are differently denominated.

The river Avon, over which is a ferry at a place called *Rownam*, separates this parish and county from Gloucestershire and Bristol. A small stream, formed by a spring rising at Dundry, after having traversed the vale of Ashton, empties itself into the Avon near the abovenamed passage. Another spring, having its source in Barrow, composes a second rivulet, which pursues a different course, winding through Wraxal and the moors towards the Severn sea.

Against the southeast slope of Ashton-hill, stretching in a lengthwise direction from east to west, lies the village of Long-Ashton, throughout which and the whole parish, a fine gravel road is cut, which in many places forms a terrace, overlooking a most pleasing succession of fine meads and pastures, intermingled with wood, and having in view part of the city of Bristol, Clifton, Dundry, and the hills and scattered villages on the other side the Avon.

The eastern point of Ashton-hill overlooks the Avon and the Hotwells, which lie below at an immense depth. This point is rudely interspersed with wood and forest shrubs, springing from amidst the crags, which are in some places almost, and in others quite perpendicular, having here and there a cavern hollowed by the hand of nature, and exhibiting a very romantick and magnificently wild appearance. On the verge of these cliffs are two very ancient Roman encampments, known by the names



names of *Burwalls* and *Stokeleigh*. The former is triangular, conforming to the shape of the cliff, and consists of three ramparts, placed on the hill side westward, the parts next the river being guarded by the precipice. The inner rampart is eighteen feet high, and is composed of a strong cemented mass of limestone rubbish, so hard as scarcely to be broken by any tool.

*Stokeleigh* stands northward from *Burwalls*, being divided from it by a very deep narrow dell, clothed on the north side with wood. It is of an oval form, and consists of two ramparts, the inmost of which is very thick and strong. They seem to have been thrown up more with a view of observation than defence, and to have served as a speculum over the pass between the Belgæ on this, and the Dobuni on the other side the river.

The parish of Long-Ashton contains about four thousand two hundred acres, and is divided into the tithings of ASHTON-DANDO, ASHTON-LIONS, ASHTON-PHILIPS, and ASHTON-ALEXANDER.<sup>a</sup> The lands are generally pasture and meadow; there being no more than twenty acres of arable land in the whole parish. The chief employment of the common people is gardening, and vast quantities of all kinds of vegetables and fruits (particularly strawberries) are raised here for Bristol market and the Hotwells, which are also supplied with milk and butter from the dairies. In the valley southward from the village are several coal-mines, where at the pit's mouth coal is delivered at three-pence per bushel.

In many of the gardens Roman coins have been dug up, from which it may be concluded that the Romans were acquainted with this territory; but we know not by what name they distinguished it. The Saxons called it *Earton*, on account of its eastern situation from *Portbury*, which was in their days the principal town on this side the river. It was written by the Normans *Estune*, and under that title it is surveyed in *Domesday-Book*, immediately after the town of *Porberie*, or *Portbury*, above-mentioned. The whole place had previously to the Conquest belonged to three Saxon thanes; but was then the property of Gefferey bishop of Coutances in Normandy.

“ The Bishop himself holds *ESTUNE*. Three thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for twenty hides. The arable is thirty carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and five servants, and twelve villanes, and six cottagers, with seven ploughs. There is a mill of forty pence rent, and twenty-five acres of meadow. Pasture one mile long, and half a mile broad, and one hundred acres of wood. It was worth twelve pounds, now ten pounds.

“ Of the land of this manor Roger holds of the Bishop seven hides, and has there in demesne two carucates, and four servants, and eight villanes, and ten cottagers, with five ploughs. There are eighteen acres of meadow, and thirty acres of wood. It is worth seven pounds.

“ Of the same land of this manor Wido a priest holds three hides, and has there two carucates, and two servants, and three villanes, and two cottagers, with two ploughs. It is worth one hundred shillings.

<sup>a</sup> This parish finds a constable for the Hundred of Hareclive every fourth year.

"To the church of this manor appertains one virgate of the same land."<sup>b</sup>

This Gefferey, bishop of Coutances, died in 1093, and his lands resorting to the crown were differently disposed of. The first person that appears upon record to have enjoyed any considerable possessions in this place, is Adam de Heyron or Herun, who lived in the time of Henry I. and bore on his seal three herons, in allusion to his name.<sup>c</sup> He died about the beginning of the reign of King Stephen, and his property descended by his only daughter and heiress to Alexander De Alneto, or De Alno, a name afterwards corrupted into De Auno, Danno, and Dando.

Which Alexander de Alneto, in the twelfth year of Henry II. upon the aid levied for marrying the king's daughter, certified that he held his lands by the service of one knight's fee.<sup>d</sup> He was a benefactor to the monks of Bath, and among other donations gave to them the manor of Camely, and dying about the beginning of the reign of King John, was buried near the west entrance of the church of St. Peter at Bath.<sup>e</sup>

To this Alexander succeeded Robert, Henry, Fulk, and Geoffrey De Alno, which last, 43 Hen. III, held two carucates of land in Ashton;<sup>f</sup> and dying that same year, was succeeded by

Alexander De Alneto, or De Alno, the second of that name, who gave to the hospital of St. Catherine in the village of Bedminster, the Burwalls on Ashton-Cliff, and a messuage in the hamlet of Boure-Ashton; and to the hospital of Billeswick in the city of Bristol, a messuage and lands in Long-Ashton, situated opposite the present vicarage-house.<sup>g</sup> The territory which this family possessed in Ashton, was ever after called by their name, and at this day constitutes a tithing of the appellation of ASHTON-DANDO.

But this branch of the De Alnos failing about the time of Edward I. another family succeeded to the estates, of the name of Lions, or De Lions; descended from a house which originated from Lyons, the capital of Lyonnois, a province in France, from which country they emigrated into England soon after the Norman Conquest.

Of this family was Nicholas de Lions, who in 1252 held the office of reeve of the city of Bristol.<sup>h</sup>

His eldest son's name was William, who improved the patrimonial estates by purchase from Agnes the widow of Alexander de Alno, and William de Ashton; inasmuch that at his death 5 Edw. II. he held in this parish a capital messuage, (the same in all probability which is still partly standing) a hundred and forty-seven acres of arable land, forty-four acres of meadow, and separate parcels of pasture, with a windmill, two fulling-mills, and divers other possessions.<sup>i</sup> By Maud his wife he left issue three sons, Adam, Thomas, and Edmund.

Adam de Lions, the eldest son, was born in the year 1287, and succeeded to this estate; but lived only one year after the death of his father, and

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>c</sup> Seals from ancient deeds.

<sup>d</sup> Lib. Nig. Scac. i. 96.

<sup>e</sup> Lib. Rub. Bathon. MS.

<sup>f</sup> Efc.

<sup>g</sup> Cart. antiq.

<sup>h</sup> Notes by Savage MS.

<sup>i</sup> Efc.



Thomas the second son of William, and brother of Adam, inherited this manor, and paid thirty-three shillings and four-pence for his relief. This Thomas, dying also without issue in the year 1328, was succeeded by his only surviving brother

Edmund de Lions, born in 1303, 32 Edw. I. This Edmund, the year after his coming to the estate, made a grant of Stokeleigh, parcel thereof, to the abbey of St. Augustine in Bristol.\* Besides his hereditary possessions, he had lands in the hamlet of KENCOT in this parish, granted him by Gefferey de Alta Villa, or Hautville, which before had belonged to Thomas de Gatcombe.<sup>1</sup> 17 Edw. III. he held the parsonage of Ashton by lease from John de Irford, prior of the monastery of St. Peter at Bath,<sup>m</sup> and died 40 Edw. III. leaving issue two sons, William and Thomas.

William de Lions, the eldest son and heir of Edmund, dying without issue in 1370, was succeeded by his brother Thomas, who 15 Ric. II. obtained a charter of free warren, and liberty to inclose and make a park in his manor of Long-Ashton,<sup>n</sup> which from this family henceforward assumed the name of ASHTON-LIONS, and still denominates a tithing in this parish. His wife's name was Margaret, but he left no issue, and all his estates descended to Alianore Hulle his cousin and next heir.

Which Alianore Hulle, who possessed considerable estates in the lower parts of this county, being a great heiress, by deed bearing date A. D. 1454, conveyed all her right in Long-Ashton to Richard Choke of Stanton-Drew, esq; afterwards Lord Chief Justice of England, a person of very great éminence in the days wherein he lived. He kept his chief house here, having (in Leland's words) great furniture of silver;<sup>o</sup> and dying seized of this manor A. D. 1486, was buried in the parish church of Long-Ashton, in which he had founded a chantry, and endowed the same with lands in Long-Ashton, Keynsham, Inglishcombe, and Wookey, for the support of six priests to attend his

\* Cart. Antiq.

<sup>1</sup> Ibid.

<sup>m</sup> Ex. Autog.

“ Rex Archiepiscopus, Episcopus, Abbatibus, Prioribus, Ducibus, Comitibus, Baronibus, Justiciariis, Vicecomitibus, Prepositis, Ministris, et omnibus Ballivis, et Fidelibus suis salutem. Sciatis nos de gratia nostra speciali concessisse et hac carta nostra confirmasse dilecto armigero nostro Thomæ Lyons, quod ipse et hæredes sui imperpetuum habeant liberam warennam in omnibus terris suis quas tenet de nobis in manerio de Ashton-Lyons juxta Bristoliam, dum tamen terræ illæ non sint infra metas Forestæ nostræ. Ita quod nullus intret terras illas ad fugandum in eis; vel ad aliquid capiendum, quod ad warennam pertineat, sine licentia et voluntate ipsius Thomæ, vel hæredum suorum, sub forisfactura nostra decem librarum. Quare volumus, et firmiter præcipimus, pro nobis et heredibus nostris, quod predictus Thomas, et heredes sui, imperpetuum habeant liberam warennam in omnibus terris suis predictis; dum tamen terræ illæ non sint infra metas Forestæ nostræ. Ita quod nullus intret terras illas, ad fugandum in eis, vel ad aliquid capiendum, quod ad warennam pertineat, sine licentia et voluntate ipsius Thomæ, vel heredum suorum, sub forisfactura nostra decem librarum, sicut predictum est. Concessimus insuper, et licentiam dedimus, pro nobis et heredibus nostris, quantum in nobis est, prefato Thomæ, quod ipse predictas terras cum fossatis et haijs includere, et parcum inde facere, et easdem terras, cum fossatis et haijs sic inclusas, et parcum inde factum, habere et tenere possit, sibi et hæredibus suis imperpetuum, absque impetitione nostri, vel heredum nostrorum, seu ministrorum nostrorum quorumcunque. Hujus testibus, venerabilibus patribus, W. Archiepiscopo Cantuar. totius Angliæ Primate; Th. Archiepiscopo Ebor. Angliæ Primate, Cancellario nostro; R. London, W. Wynton, T. Sarum, Thesaurario nostro, Episcopis; Johanne Aquitann. et Lancast. Edmundo Ebor. et Thoma Gloucestr. Ducibus, Avunculis nostris carissimis, Edwardo Rotell, Rico Arundell, Thoma Warr, Henr. Northumbr. comitibus; Thoma de Percy, senescallo hospitij nostri; Magistro Edmundo de Stafford, custode privati sigilli nostri; et alijs. Dat. per manum nostram apud Westm. xx<sup>o</sup> die Aprilis.” Cart. 15 Ric. II. n. 21.

<sup>o</sup> Itin. vii. 84.

P p 2

obit.

obit.<sup>p</sup> He was twice married; his first wife was Joan the daughter of William Pavey, of the city of Bristol, esq; by whom he had three sons, John, who succeeded him; Richard, settled in Berkshire; and William, who was a priest and prebendary of Bedminster; as also two daughters, Joan, and Elizabeth. His second wife was Margaret Morres, who survived him, and was living in 1478.

John Choke, son and heir of Sir Richard, married Elizabeth daughter of Sir John Wroughton, knt. by whom he had several children, and dying in 1491, was succeeded by

Sir John Choke, knt. his son and heir. This Sir John, in the year 1495, gave the house called the *Church-house*,<sup>q</sup> situated near the church-cross in the village of Long-Ashton, and lands, to feoffees in trust for the parish, on condition that on Sunday for ever prayer should be offered up *from the pulpit of Ashton church*, for the souls of himself and his ancestors deceased.<sup>r</sup> In 1506, 21 Henry VII. he sold the manor of Long-Ashton, and the advowson of the chantry, to Sir Giles Daubney, knt. lord Daubney, the King's chamberlain; whose son Henry Daubney earl of Bridgwater, in the year 1541, 32 Henry VIII. conveyed the same to Sir Thomas Arundel, knt. by whom, in 1545, both the manor and advowson of the chantry of Long-Ashton were finally sold to John Smyth, esq.

The family of Smyth was for many generations seated at Aylburton, near Lidney, in the county of Gloucester. John Smyth was living there the beginning of the reign of Henry VI. and was father of Robert Smyth of the same place, who had a son named John, living also at Aylburton the latter end of the same reign, viz. 27 Henry VI. 1449.

Which John was father of Matthew Smyth, who married Alice daughter of Charles Havard, of Herefordshire, esq; and died in 1526, leaving issue one son John, the purchaser of Long-Ashton, and a daughter married to Thomas Phelips, of Montacute in this county, esq.

After the said purchase of this manor, John Smyth seated himself principally at Long-Ashton. In 1532 he was sheriff of the city of Bristol, and mayor thereof in 1547, and again in 1554. He married Joan the daughter of John Parr, esq; and both lie buried in the north aisle of St. Werburgh's church in Bristol. They left issue two sons, Hugh, and Matthew.

Hugh Smyth, the eldest son, was born A. D. 1530. He married Maud, daughter and coheir of Hugh Biccombe, of Crowcombe in this county, esq; and dying in 1580, was buried at Long-Ashton. They had issue one only daughter and heir, married to

<sup>p</sup> This chantry, (of which the last incumbent was Henry Rowe, who in 1553 had a pension of 6l.) and the lands belonging thereto, were, after the dissolution 18 April, 3 Edw. VI. granted to John Smyth, esq; together with sundry lands in Huntspill, Stone-Easton, and Ashton; formerly given by Nicholas and Henry Choke, younger brothers of Sir John Choke, and grandsons of the Judge, for the support of a chaplain to celebrate mass in the chapel of the Virgin Mary, called Meriet chapel in Long-Ashton.

<sup>q</sup> This house is now a publick-house, the sign of the Angel, on the south side of the street.

<sup>r</sup> From original papers in the possession of Sir J. H. Smyth, bart.



Edward Morgan, esq; son of Sir William Morgan, of Lanternam in the county of Monmouth, knt.

Matthew Smyth, the second son of John, and heir male to his brother Hugh, succeeded to the estates. He married Jane, eldest daughter and coheir of Thomas Tewther, of Ludlow in Shropshire, and relict of Bartholomew Skerne, of the county of Lincoln, by whom he was father of a son, Hugh, and a daughter, Anne, married to George Rodney, esq; son and heir of Sir Maurice Rodney, knt. He died in 1583, and was buried with his lady at Long-Ashton.

Hugh Smyth, their only son, was a knight, and married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Sir Thomas Gorges, knt. by whom he had issue one son, Thomas; and two daughters, Mary, the wife of Sir Thomas Smith, of Hough in the county of Chester, knt. and Helena, the wife of Sir Francis Rogers, of Cannington in this county, knt.; Sir Hugh Smyth died 15 April 1627, and was buried at Long-Ashton. His widow was married to Sir Ferdinand Gorges, knt.

Thomas Smyth, eldest son and heir of Sir Hugh Smyth, was elected one of the representatives in parliament for the town of Bridgwater, Feb. 28, 1627. He was also chosen one of the knights of the shire for this county, with Sir Ralph Hopton, March 30, 1640; and Feb. 8, 1640-1, was re-elected for Bridgwater in the room of Edward Wyndham, esq. On the breaking out of the civil war, he engaged himself in the Royal cause, and was at Sherborne with the Marquis of Hertford, and with him retreated into Wales, where he was taken ill, and died at Cardiff in that principality in 1642. His remains were interred in the church of Long-Ashton. By Florence his wife, daughter of John lord Poulett, he had issue one son, Hugh, and four daughters, Florence, Mary, Helena, and Anne. His widow surviving him, was married secondly to Thomas Pigott, of the kingdom of Ireland, esq; the purchaser of the manor of Brockley.

Hugh Smyth, son and heir of Thomas, was in 1660 created a knight of the Bath, and the same year elected knight of the shire for this county with George Horner, esq. In the following year he was made a baronet of England, and again, in 1678, was elected knight of the shire for Somerset. He married Anne second daughter of the Hon. John Ashburnham, of Ashburnham in the county of Sussex, groom of the bed-chamber to King Charles I. and II. by whom he had three sons, Sir John Smyth, bart. Hugh, and Charles, (of whom the two last died unmarried) and also three daughters, viz. Elizabeth, Florence, and Anne. Sir Hugh Smyth died in 1680, and was succeeded by

Sir John Smyth, his eldest son, who was elected knight of the shire in the first parliament of James II. and again in 1695. He married Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Sir Samuel Astry, of Henbury in the county of Gloucester, knt. by whom he had issue three sons, Sir John; Hugh, who died unmarried, and was buried at Long-Ashton; and Samuel, who died and was buried at Taunton; he had also five daughters, the eldest of whom, Anne, died in 1760 unmarried. Elizabeth, the second, died unmarried also. Astrea, the third daughter, married Thomas Coster, esq; member of parliament for the city of Bristol; but died without issue. Florence, the fourth daughter,

daughter, was married first in 1727 to John Pigott, of Brockley, esq; and secondly, in 1731-2, to Jarrit Smyth, esq; (only son of John Smyth, of Bristol, esq;) who was elected one of the representatives in parliament for the city of Bristol in 1756, and again in 1761; and was Jan. 27, 1763, advanced to the dignity of a baronet of Great-Britain. Arabella, the fifth and youngest daughter of Sir John Smyth, and Elizabeth his wife, married Edward Gore, of Flax-Bourton in this county, esq; by whom she had issue two sons, John Gore, now of Barrow-court, esq; and Edward Gore, now of Kiddington in the county of Oxford, esq.

Sir John Smyth, eldest son of Sir John Smyth abovementioned, inherited the family estates, and married Anne, daughter of Mr. Pym of Oxford; but leaving no issue at his death in 1741, the title became extinct; and this manor, with the other patrimonial inheritance, descended to his three surviving sisters, Anne, Florence, and Arabella. Anne the eldest, dying unmarried, left her portion thereof to Edward, son of Edward Gore, of Flax-Bourton abovementioned. The second share became the property of Sir Jarrit Smyth, bart. in right of his wife Florence, the second surviving sister and coheir of Sir John. And the third share, being possessed by Edward Gore, esq; the husband of Arabella the other sister and coheir, descended to John Gore, of Barrow-Court, esq; who sold his third share in the several manors and in the hundred of Hareclive and Bedminster to Sir Jarrit Smyth, bart. Sir Jarrit died Jan. 18, 1783, at the age of ninety years, leaving issue by Florence his wife, two sons, Sir John Hugh Smyth, the present baronet, and Thomas Smyth, now of Stapleton, esq. On his death Sir John Hugh Smyth became possessed of two-thirds of the manors, and the other is now vested in Edward Gore, of Kiddington, esq.

Sir John Hugh Smyth, bart. married in 1757 Elizabeth only daughter and heir of Henry Woolnough, of Pucklechurch in the county of Gloucester, esq.

Thomas Smyth, second son of Sir Jarrit, married, in 1767, Jane only daughter of Joseph Whitchurch, of Stapleton in the county of Gloucester, esq; by whom he has issue two sons, Hugh, born July 4, 1772; and John, born Feb. 9, 1776; as also two daughters, Florence, and Mary.

The family arms are, *Gules*, on a chevron between three cinquefoils *argent*, as many leopards' faces *sable*. Crest, upon a wreath, a griffin's head erased *gules*, charged on the neck with a bar gemel, beaked and eared *or*. This crest was granted 36 Hen. VIII.

The mansion-house, called *Ashton-Court*, is a noble old structure, partly erected by the family of Lions, who inhabited it, and whose arms and devices still remain therein. It is situated on the southeast slope of Ashton-Down, and commands a very pleasing prospect. The front of the house was built in 1634 by Inigo Jones, who intended to have modernised the ancient edifice, and to have made it a regular pile of building. This front is in length one hundred and forty-three feet, and consists below of three rooms; the western one of which is a fine apartment, ninety-three feet long, and twenty feet wide, and contains several family and other portraits. The back part of the house is very ancient, and the court leading to the park westward is called the Castle-Court, from its having been embattled, and still retaining an old gate-way, similar to those adopted



adopted in baronial mansions; the second court contains some of the offices, and its entrance from without is under a low door-way between two lofty turrets, one of which contains a bell and clock. The stables and correspondent offices in the front court are of ancient date, and the whole constitutes a very venerable and picturesque building. Adjoining to the house is a park well stocked with deer.

We now proceed to an account of the other manors in Long-Ashton, and their different possessors.

Within the precincts of the great park stood an ancient mansion, now entirely demolished, the residence of a family of the name of Theyne, lords of a distinct manor, denominated after its possessors the manor of ASHTON-THEYNES.

In the court of the Saxon kings were kept a certain sort of superior attendants or officers, called Thaners, from the word *Þegnian*, signifying service, whose business it was to wait on the king's person, and conduct such matters of state as more immediately concerned the household of the palace. A progenitor of the family in question was a person of this description, and in all probability one of those three thanes who jointly held this manor in the time of King Edward the Confessor; and being of somewhat greater consequence than the others, or arrogating to himself some superior authority, he acquired the title of *le Theyne*, or the Thane, which title his posterity retained till late in the thirteenth century.

In the time of Henry I. Girard le Theyne was living at Littleton in Wiltshire, in which village he held lands of Peter Fitz-Albert.

To him succeeded Osbert le Theyne, who seems to have been of this county, being found in the number of those who in the reign of King Stephen were engaged in the defence of the city of Bristol.

After him we find Matthew, Roger, and William le Theyne, successive possessors of a small manor in Long-Ashton, on the demesnes of which they had their residence. William le Theyne was living here in 1312, and was father of Henry le Theyne, who was lord of Ashton-Theynes in the year 1329, and whose widow Edith held it for her life. Its next possessor was Richard le Theyne, who lived in the time of Edward the Third. Leaving no issue male, his estates descended to John Power, a person of no great account, who was living in 1385.

The next possessor of this manor that we meet with, is Sir John Inyn, *knt.* who resided at Bishopworth in Bedminster. This Sir John Inyn was recorder of Bristol, and afterwards chief baron of the Exchequer. He died March 4, 1439, leaving issue by Alice his wife, William his son and heir, who at his death left one only daughter and heir, first married to Robert Bowring, and secondly to John Kekewich, *esq.* But dying without issue May 20, 1529, John Kenn, grandson of Isabel, the daughter of Sir John Inyn by John Kenn, *esq.* became her heir. To this John, who was living in 1545, succeeded Christopher Kenn, his son and heir, who, in 1584, sold all the manor of Ashton-Theynes, except the capital messuage and the demesnes (which had some little time before been conveyed to Jane widow of Matthew Smyth, *esq.*) to

William Clerk, of Minchin-Barrow, whose son Christopher Clerk sold the same to Sir Hugh Smyth, knt. in the year 1603. Since which it has been blended with the capital manor of Ashton-Lions.

William de Wyttington was owner of an estate within this manor in 1310. In which name and family it continued till so late as the year 1653, when it was sold to John Tovey, the coheiresses of which family were married to Obadiah Webb, esq; and Mr. Richardson, whose respective descendants now possess it.

*Rownam-Ferry* is within this manor of Ashton-Theynes. Here was formerly an hermitage and a chapel; the latter stood on the river side, near the site of the ruined smelting-houses, northward of the passage-house.

Another manor and tithing within the parish of Long-Ashton, is called ASHTON-PHILIPS. Its most ancient possessors were a family of very great account, who derived their names from the village of Ashton, being called Aston, de Aston, de Aeston, Ayton, and de Ashton. Sir John de Aston, a famous knight in the time of Henry III. was owner hereof, and was resident here A. D. 1230. To him succeeded Sir Adam de Aston, who was living in 1259. His son's name was John, who was also a knight, and is styled in old writings Sir John de Aeston. This Sir John was the founder of the old mansion-house of Ashton-Philips, as appears by a passage in the registers of Wells, *in domicilio quod ipse construxerat.*<sup>1</sup> This building was finished before the year 1265, at which time he had a dispute with the rector of Ashton, concerning a chantry which he had founded in the chapel of his manor-house here without due licence.<sup>2</sup> His successors were John de Ashton, lord of this manor in 1290; William de Ashton in 1308, and Sir Robert de Ashton, knt. who died in 1384. This Sir Robert was the last of his name that possessed this manor; for after his death it was held in moieties, one of which became vested in a person of the name of John Teyfant, whose son John sold it to Robert Poyntz, of Iron-Aston in the county of Gloucester, 6 Henry V. 1419. Two years after which, viz. 1421, the said Robert Poyntz sold the same to Roger Lyveden of Bristol, whose widow Isabella had it in jointure in 1450. After her death Thomas the son of John Wythiford, and grandson of Roger Lyveden abovementioned, inherited this manor, and sold it about the year 1490 to Richard A'Merryck.

The other moiety of this manor, after the death of Sir Robert de Ashton, was possessed 19 Ric. II. by Margaret Weston. Richard Weston her son enjoyed it in 1422, and about 1425 sold it to Roger Lyveden, the owner of the other moiety.

After which this second moiety of the manor became also divided by the marriage of Lyveden's two daughters, coheiresses, one of whom, Jane, was married to Richard Wymbush. Which Richard had a son named William, living about the year 1450. He died without issue male, and his estates came to Isabella his sole daughter and heiress, the wife of Richard Seymour, of Oxfordshire, esq; who possessed this manor in her right, and was living in 1470. Humphrey Seymour, his son, succeeded him in 1490, and in 1503 sold it to Richard A'Merryck.

<sup>1</sup> Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

<sup>2</sup> Ex Autog.



The other half of the second moiety of this manor, passed by Agnes, the other daughter and coheirefs of Roger Lyveden, by marriage to John Wythiford, from whom it descended to Thomas his son, and was by him in 1491 sold to Richard A'Merryck, who thus became seized of the entire manor.

Jane, sole daughter and heiress of this Richard A'Merryck, was married to John Brook, serjeant at law, in 1494. He died in 1522, leaving issue two sons, Thomas and David. Thomas succeeded to the manor of Ashton-Philips, and was living in 1524. Hugh Brook his son and heir was resident here, and, dying in 1586, was buried in the parish church of Ashton. He left four daughters his coheiresses, viz. Elizabeth, Frances, Susan, and Alice.

Elizabeth, the eldest daughter, was married to Giles Walwyn, of Herefordshire, esq; who in 1593 sold that part of the manor which had fallen to his share in right of his said wife, to Jane Smyth, widow of Matthew Smyth, of Long-Ashton, esq.

Frances, the second daughter, was the wife of William Clarke, of Minchin-Barrow, esq; whose son Christopher Clarke, in 1603, sold his portion to Sir Hugh Smyth, knt.

Susan, the third daughter, was wife to Hugh Halfwell, esq; by whom she had a son named Thomas, who inherited this portion of the manor, and in the year 1600 conveyed the same to Sir Hugh Smyth, knt.

Alice, the fourth daughter and coheirefs, was married to Thomas Vatchell, of Cannington, esq; and they in 1593 sold this last remaining portion of the manor to Jane the widow of Matthew Smyth, esq. By which several disposals the whole property of the manor, centring in the family of Smyth, has descended like the other estates in Ashton.

The manor-house of Ashton-Philips (called *Lower-Court*) is situated in the valley south-west from the village. It was formerly a very large and grand structure for the times in which it was erected. But little now remains except an east wing of the dwelling-apartments, in which is a large room wainscoted, and the edges of the pannels gilt. At the south end of this building stands the chapel, which is entire, being twenty-two feet in length, and ten in breadth. The altar is of stone, and still remains in its pristine state. The pulpit stood on the left side of it, and in the south wall is a niche or receptacle for holy water. A small bell till of late years hung in an arcade over the entrance.

The family of de Ashton, who bore for their arms, *Argent*, two bars *sable*, over all a bend *gules*, were lords also of another manor in Ashton, called, after its subsequent owners, the manor of *Ashton-Meriet*, by which appellation it is distinguished to this day. William de Ashton, son of John de Ashton, lord of this manor, and that of East-Copeland in this county, granted all this his said manor to Sir John Meriet, knt. and Elizabeth his wife, and the heirs of the said John. Shortly after this grant, viz. 13 Edw. II. Sir John Meriet procured from the King a charter of free warren in all his demesne lands in the manor of Ashton, and in the manors of Hestercombe, Leigh-

Flory, East-Copeland, and Combe-Flory, in this county.\* He left two sons, John and Simon. John the eldest, after the death of Elizabeth his mother, succeeded to the manor, and sold it to Walter de Meriet, clerk, his uncle, who dying without issue, it descended to Simon, second son of Sir John Meriet, his nephew and heir, who was living in 1347. In the year 1375, the trustees of this Simon de Meriet obtained of Thomas de Berkeley, lord of the hundred of *Hareclive*, a licence to grant this manor to the priory of St. Peter at Bath.<sup>†</sup> The prior and convent of that monastery had long before been in possession of the manor of the parsonage of Ashton, as well as the advowson of the vicarage, the former being held of them by the families of Lyons and Choke. In 1344 Edmund de Lyons was the lessee thereof under the said prior and convent. Sir Richard Choke, knt. Dame Margaret his wife, and William Choke, clerk, held the same and the manor of Ashton-Meriet by lease dated July 2, 1478, for sixty years. Sir Richard Choke's lease was surrendered, and another lease granted 20 March, 6 Henry VIII. of the same manor and parsonage, with rents, mortuaries, tithes of corn, hay, and wool, to Nicholas Choke, Maud his wife, George their son, and John Chapman, clerk, for sixty-one years; the said prior and convent reserving to themselves the use of the hall, chamber, kitchen, and stable, for their convenience at the season of holding their courts here. Maud Choke and John Chapman survived the other lessees, and 9 Henry VIII. assigned the remainder of the said term to Marmaduke Mauncel, brother of the said Maud, in trust for her use for life, and after her decease for the use of her nephew Alexander Mauncel during the remainder of the said term; on condition that he should every year, during the said limitation, hold a dirge to be sung by note, and one mass of requiem to be also sung by note, in the parish church of Long-Ashton, on the vigil of St. Laurence, for the souls of the said Maud, Nicholas her husband, George their son, and for the souls of her father and mother, and for all Christian souls. He was appointed to allow the priest, clerks, and other ministers of the said service, ten shillings, and a similar sum to such poor people as should assemble at the said celebration.<sup>‡</sup> In 1293, the temporalities of the Bishop of Bath, in Ashton, were valued at twenty pounds.<sup>§</sup> By the dissolution of that priory the manor of Ashton-Meriet, with the rectorial manor, and the advowson of the vicarage, became vested in the crown, and King Henry VIII. by letters patent bearing date 21 June, the 38th year of his reign, granted the said premises to John Smyth, esq; and his heirs.

Within the manor of Ashton-Meriet, stood a chapel, at a small distance from the northeast corner of the church-yard, in a field still bearing the name of *Meriet's*. It was for some time let as a cottage; but taken down in the year 1774, and nothing of

\* Rex Archiepiscopis, &c. salutem. Sciatis nos ad instantiam dilecti consanguinei et fidelis nostri Thomæ Comitis Lancast. concessisse, et hac carta nostra confirmasse, dilecto et fidei nostro Johanni de Meriet, quod ipse, et heredes sui imperpetuum habeant liberam warennam in omnibus dominicis terris suis de Hestercoumbe, Leghesflory, Estcapelond, Coumbesflory, et Ashton juxta Bristol in com. Sumersset. Dum tamen terræ illæ non sint infra metas Forestæ nostræ. Ita quod nullus intret terras illas ad fugandum in eis vel ad aliquid capiendum, quod ad warennam pertineat, sine licentia et voluntate ipsius Johannis, vel heredum suorum, super forisfacturam nostram decem librarum, &c. Hijs testibus venerabilibus patribus W. Archiepô. Ebor. Angliæ primate; T. Elien. Epô. Cancellario nostro; Johanne de Britann. comite Richmond. Ricardo de Grey; Hugone de Audele, seniore, et alijs. Dat. per manum nostram apud Ebor. ix<sup>o</sup> die Julij." Cart. 13 Edw. II. n. 35.

<sup>†</sup> Cart. Antiq.

<sup>‡</sup> Ex. Antog.

<sup>§</sup> Taxat. Temporal.



it now remains. It was dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary; and was endowed with lands by divers of the Choke family, for the support of a chaplain to celebrate divine service therein.<sup>b</sup>

The parsonage or rectorial house, stands on the west side of the church-yard. The old hall is still standing, and forms a west wing, now converted into a cellar. The room above stairs where the abbots' courts were held is also entire, and is now used as a repository for lumber. Its window opens to the garden southward. The rectorial or abbot's barn, is a very large old structure, and of the kind generally used in monastic granges.

The rectory of Long-Ashton was in 1292 valued at seventeen marks.<sup>c</sup> The benefice is vicarial, in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster. The lords of the manor are its patrons, and the Rev. John Collinson the present incumbent. The vicarage-house stands near the road side, about two furlongs westward from the church. It had heretofore a small chapel, which was taken down about thirty years ago on the alteration of the old building.

Of the vicars we preserve the following names:

Robert Coker, 1329.

John de Bradford, 1340.

Richard Cooke, 1371.

John, 1387.

Robert, 1398.

Thomas Heynes, 1428.

John Spore, 1484.

Thomas Draper, 1495.

John Rought, 1547.

William Parsons, 1571.

William Parr, 1591.

James Nichols, 1618.

Thomas Tucker, 1623.

Adam Holland, 1638.

Richard Forster, 1639.

Richard Smith, 1681.

Elidni Trat, 1695.

Thomas Wickham, 1725.

John Wickham, 1754.

John Collinson, 1787.

The church, which is dedicated to All-Saints, is a handsome structure, built by one of the family of Lyons, whose arms are cut in stone on the west end of the tower on the outside, and are likewise blazoned on the ceiling of the nave, viz. *Argent*, a chevron *sable*, between three lions dormant coward *gules*. It consists of a nave, north and south ailes, chancel, with a chapel on each side, and a tower at the west end containing six bells, one of which is very ancient, and has the following circumscription: *Sanctæ Johanne Baptiste ora pro nobis*. On another bell is this memorial: SIR JOHN SMYTH, BARONET, FOR WHOSE NAME I WILL LOUDLY SPEAKE. WILLIAM BRITTON AND HENRY MURFORD, CHURCHWARDENS. T. BILBIE, F. 1767. The nave is separated from the ailes by two rows of neat clustered pillars supporting pointed arches, and from the chancel both ailes and nave are divided by a beautiful Gothick screen of flower and fret-work painted and gilt, and of most admirable workmanship. On the roof between the nave and the chancel is a small arched turret, which formerly held a saint's bell. In the east window are these arms: viz. 1. Quarterly, first and fourth

<sup>b</sup> See page 292.

<sup>c</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

*Argent*, three cinquefoils per pale *azure* and *gules*, Choke. Second and third, *argent*, three bars wavy *gules*. 2. *Azure*, a St. Andrew's cross *or*, impaling, *azure*: a St. Peter's key double warded *or*. 3. Choke, quartered with Lyons. On a window of the north aisle are the arms of De Ashton; and in the windows of the north chapel are several figures, viz. An abbot with his mitre and crozier, a cardinal, and the portraiture of King Edward the Fourth and his Queen Elizabeth Woodville.

In this chapel, against the north wall, stands a very elegant monument of stone richly decorated with Gothick tracery, and imagery much superior to most similar works of the age wherein it was erected. Under a fine canopy lie the effigies of Sir Richard Choke, and Margaret his wife; he in his judge's robes, and she in the dress of the times; two cherubs support their heads; at his feet a lion, at her's a dog. On the back of the monument above the figures, are two angels supporting, in well-drawn attitudes, a Glory, in which was formerly the representation of our Saviour on the cross, but which is now effaced. Above these, on a scroll, reaching from end to end is the following sentence: *Ihu for thi grete pety of our synnes have mercy: And for the love of pi passion bryng oē soules to salvaciō.* On another scroll underneath, *Misericors Ete fili Dei vivi miserere nostri.* At each corner are arms: On the dexter side, *Or*, a saltire *gules*, on the sinister, *Or*, a cross *gules*. On the front of the tomb are these coats: 1. Choke, impaling *ermine*, on a fesse *gules*, three martlets *or*; a crescent for distinction, Pavy. 2. Choke, impaling *Argent*, two chevrons *sable* between three roses *gules*, seeded *or*. 3. Choke, impaling Lyons.

Against the northeast corner of this chapel is a white marble monument, inscribed:—*“Juxta requiescit, ac semper in pace requiescat, quod mortale fuerat Dñæ Annæ Smyth Dñi Johannis Smyth, baronetti, uxoris dilectissime; fœmina omni laude digna; venustate corporis ornata, suavitate morum ornatior; animi virtutibus ornatissima: æqualem fortassis invenias lector, superiorem nullibi. In egenos etenim liberalis, erga omnes benevola. Qualis fuisset unico verbo discas; optima amica, optima conjux, Christiana optima. Exegit sibi monumentum ære perennius—hocce marmoreum, vir sui amatissimus, a se merito amatus, extrui curavit. Obdormivit die Septembris nono, A.D. MDCXXXIII, ætat. xxxvi. Abi et fac similiter.”*

In the chapel opposite to this, against the south wall, is a large stone monument, erected to the memory of Hugh Brooke, of Lower-Court, esq; who died 30 Eliz. and was buried Feb. 23, 1556. There is no inscription on this tomb, it having been left unfinished. The arms of Brooke were *Gules*, on a chevron *or* three lions rampant *sable*.

On the floor round the verge of a stone enculptured with a cross flory is the following legend:

*“Hic jacet Domina Augneta Lemon cujus anime ppicietur Deus. Amen.”*

Against the south wall there is a niche for holy water; and on the walls some remnants of banners, and other insignia of Sir Hugh Smyth, knt. and bart. are suspended.

In the chancel on the north wall is a monument of white marble:—“In memory of the most vertuous and pious Dame Elizabeth Smyth, late the dear wife of Sir John Smyth,



Smyth, of this parish, baronet. She was eldest daughter of Sir Samuel Astry, late of the parish of Henbury in the county of Gloucester, knt. and Dame Elizabeth his wife. She departed this life the xvth day of Septemb. in the year of our Lord m<sup>o</sup>c<sup>o</sup>c<sup>o</sup>xv, aged near xlvi years. They had issue three sons, John, Hugh, and Samuel; and five daughters, Anne, Elizabeth, Astræa, Florence, and Arabella. Sir John Smyth, bart. ob. sixth of May, m<sup>o</sup>c<sup>o</sup>c<sup>o</sup>xxvi, ætat. lxvi." Arms, Smyth, impaling Barry wavy of six, *argent* and *azure*; on a chief *gules* three bezants: Astry.

On a similar monument against the south wall:—"To the memory of Sir Hugh Smyth of this parish, knight, of the hon<sup>ble</sup> order of the Bath, and baronet, who departed this life the 28th day of July, in the year of our Lord m<sup>o</sup>d<sup>o</sup>clxxx, aged xlviii years.

"Also of Dame Anne Smyth, his vertuous lady. She was second daughter of the Hon. John Ashburnham, of Ashburnham in the county of Suffex, esq. She departed this life the twenty-sixth day of June, in the year of our Lord m<sup>o</sup>d<sup>o</sup>c<sup>o</sup>xvii, aged about lx years. They had issue three sons, John, Hugh, and Charles; and three daughters, Elizabeth, Florence, and Anne." Arms, Smyth, impaling *gules*, a fesse between six mullets *argent*, Ashburnham.

On the floor:—"Here lieth the body of the Rev. Richard Forster, vicar of this parish, who died the 13th of December 1680, aged 72."

"Under this stone lieth the body of the Rev. Robert Stillingfleet, D.D. prebendary of Durham, and master of Sherburne-hospital near Durham, who departed this life Aug. 3, 1759, aged 53, with a hope full of immortality through the revelation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He was third son of the Rev. James Stillingfleet, D.D. dean, and grandson of the Right Rev. Edward Stillingfleet, D.D. bishop of Worcester. In his life-time he was beloved and respected, and in his death sincerely lamented by all his relations, friends, and neighbours.

"Here also lieth the body of Elizabeth, daughter of the Rev. John Wickham, vicar of this parish, by Elizabeth his wife, niece to Dr. Stillingfleet. She died March 10th, 1775, aged 14. In sure and certain hope of a joyful resurrection through the merits of Jesus Christ.

"Here also lieth the body of the Rev. John Wickham, vicar of this parish near thirty-three years, who departed this life March the 5th, 1787, aged 70, in hope of a blessed immortality through the merits of Jesus Christ."

On another stone:—"Hic dormit Anna, uxor Elidni Trat, vic. quæ animam Creatori suo religiose reddidit 28 Julij, A.D. 1716, ætat. suæ 47.

"Hic etiam requiescit corpus Elidni Trat, hujus ecclesiæ per 33 annos vicarij, qui obiit Septembris 3, anno salutis m<sup>o</sup>d<sup>o</sup>c<sup>o</sup>cxv, ætatis suæ lx.

"Mr. Thomas Wickham, vicar of this parish thirty years, died the 12th day of May, in the year of our Lord 1754, aged 65 years."

In the body of the church, within the memory of people now living, stood a raised tomb, containing the reliques of Thomas de Lyons the founder of the church. On the

the top was a large stone, whereon was the figure of a man lying in a sideways attitude on a long pillow, his head attired with a Janizary's cap, and a lion at his feet. Round the verge of the stone was this inscription: **Hic jacet Thomas Lyons miles, Etus Benedictus Deus, Amen.** Both the figure and the inscription were inlaid in a strong coat of terras cemented to the surface of the stone, a method of decking the coverings of sepulchres first introduced into this country from France. The raised tomb being removed for the purpose of levelling the floor, this stone was placed therein among others as a paving stone, and still remains in the middle passage between the chancel and the belfry. On turning it up sometime since the arms of Lyons were found carved on a separate stone underneath.

At the west end of the nave, near the organ loft, is a neat marble monument—"In memory of Joan the fourth daughter of James Sparrow, of Flax-Bourton, gent. and Rachel his wife, who died the 26th day of Nov. 1745, aged 48 years; and was interred near this place. Beloved by her friends, knew no enemy, in health cheerful, patient in pain; and as she lived, so she died, a Christian.—In the next grave lie the remains of Sarah, the second daughter of the said James and Rachel Sparrow, who died the 24th day of January 1750, aged 61 years, endued with every social and Christian virtue." Arms: *Argent*, three roses *gules*, seeded *or*, barbed *vert*: a chief of the second.

Under an arch in the wall at the end of the south aisle is an old tomb, wherein was interred one of the family of de Gatecombe, who had their name from and their residence in a place called GATECOMBE or GATCOMBE within this parish, about two miles westward from the church; where in ancient times there having stood a gate, serving as a chief entrance into the combe or valley from the hill, it thence derived the appellation of *Gatecombe*. Of the owners of this place were

William de Gatecombe, who occurs in 1296.

John de Gatecombe, 1308.

Thomas de Gatecombe, 1312.

John de Gatecombe, 1323.

John de Gatecombe, 1377.

William de Gatecombe, 1398.

Nicholas de Gatecombe, 1430. Catherine the sole daughter and heiress of this Nicholas de Gatecombe, about the above date was married to Richard Halfwell, esq; who became possessed of Gatcombe in her right, and whose descendant Sir Nicholas Halfwell, knt. sold it to William Cox in the year 1623. Francis, son of the said William Cox, dying in 1667, left issue two daughters his coheirs; Rachel, wife to James Sparrow, esq; and Sarah, wife to Mr. Richard Cooke, between whom the estate was divided. Joseph, son of Richard Cooke, sold his moiety thereof to Richard Grimsted, and he to John Combes, esq; whose nephew Richard Combes, of Earnshill in this county, esq; sold the same to Francis Sparrow, esq; father of James Sparrow, esq; the present proprietor of Gatcombe, who married Lætitia daughter of Thomas Popham, of West-Bagborough in this county, esq.

At the west end of the south aisle there is a small mural monument of stone to the memory of one of the coheiresses of Francis Cox, of Gatcombe, in the following words:  
"Spe



“Spe resurrectionis ad gloriam Sarah uxor Richardi Cooke, gen. mulier, bonis moribus et virtutibus ornata; omnibus placida et benigna; vitam mortalem pro immortali mutavit 29<sup>o</sup> die Novembris, anno Dom. 1704.” Arms: In chief three cocks’ heads erased, in base a spur leathered.

Against the north wall of the north aisle, near the door, there is a neat monument of black and white marble, inscribed as follows:—“Near this place rest the mortal remains of William Fenn, of this parish, esq; who died June 11th, 1788, in the forty-second year of his age, universally lamented.—The goodness of his heart, which was ever open to all, but particularly to the poor, the rectitude of his conduct through life, were justly approved by men.—His unaffected piety, and his christian resignation at the hour of death, endeared him to his God.”

In the church-yard, under the north wall of the tower, lie the effigies in stone of a man and a woman, supposed to represent two of the family of Lyons. Their feet are turned to the east; at those of the man is a lion standing up, at those of the woman a dog. On the edge of the stone, sculptured in Gothick characters, is the following remnant of an inscription: DE SALME EYT MERCI A[MEN.

#### BENEFACTIONS TO THIS PARISH:

“1660. Mrs. Mary Smith gave 300l. for the purchase of a house and land, the rents thereof to be given to four poor people of this parish, as the owner of the upper-court, and the minister of the time being, should think fit. With this money lands at Kingston-Seymour were purchased, and the rents applied to the uses abovementioned.

1661. Francis Derrick gave four acres of land called *Gastons*, the rents to be thus applied:—10s. to the minister for a sermon on Good-Friday; 10s. to the poor on Good-Friday and St. Thomas’s-day, by equal portions; and the overplus of the said rent for the schooling of poor children, according to the discretion of the minister and churchwardens for the time being yearly for ever.

“1709. Mr. George Whiting gave 300l. laid out in lands at Lawrence-Weston in Henbury; of which rent are applied 10s. to the minister of the parish to read divine service, and preach a sermon on All-Saints-day yearly for ever;—7l. to buy yearly for ever coarse woollen cloth, to be given to such poor people and poor children, as are that day at divine service and sermon, at the discretion of the minister and churchwardens;—so much of the rent as is necessary to be laid out in keeping in good repair six freestone tombs, a head-stone and a foot-stone, being altogether on the south-east side of the chancel;—and the residue of the rents and profits to be laid out in ten loaves of sixpenny bread to be given to ten poor people that are at divine service every Sunday after All-Saints’ day, until all be disposed of; except the sum of 10s. to be laid out in twenty sixpenny loaves, and disposed of on Good-Friday to twenty poor people yearly for ever.

“1726. Sir John Smyth, bart. gave 5l. yearly for ever to be distributed equally to forty poor people; 20s. for preaching a sermon, and 5s. to the clerk yearly for ever on St. Thomas’s-day.

“1748. Mrs.

" 1748. Mrs. Arabella Gore gave a handsome pair of silver candlesticks for the use of this church.

" 1760. Mrs. Anne Smyth gave a rent charge of 10l. per annum, payable out of Whitchurch farm, for teaching poor children to read and knit, or binding out poor children apprentices, at the discretion of the minister and churchwardens.

" 1779. Mrs. Anne Pomroy gave 50l. the interest to be applied to such charities as Sir John Hugh Smyth, bart. and his heirs should think fit."

There were anciently several crosses in this parish, as

1. HORESHAM-CROSS, which stood on Horeham green, near the intersection of the roads leading from Bedminster to Long-Ashton, Pill, and Portbury.

Northwest from this point is BOURE-ASHTON, a hamlet so called within the manor of Ashton-Lyons, and containing several neat tenements. Opposite an inn in the high road, called the Coach and Horses, there formerly stood a chapel dedicated to St. John, in a field still called *Chapel-Acre*.

2. LYON'S-CROSS. This stood somewhere near the manor-house; but the exact spot is not ascertained.

3. THEYNE'S-CROSS, in the park, near the site of the old mansion of Theyne's-Court.

4. CHURCH-CROSS, still partly standing in the street opposite the parsonage-house, and at the west end of the old church-house. There was also a cross in the church-yard on the south side.

5. RAYENE'S-CROSS, near the hamlet of LAMPTON, or LAMINGTON, a mile and a half westward from the church. This hamlet is scarcely ever mentioned but in ancient deeds. It notwithstanding gave name to a considerable family.

6. KENCOT-CROSS. This cross, consisting of two rows of steps, and a pedestal (the pillar being quite gone) stands on the declivity of Ashton-hill above the hamlet of KENCOT. This hamlet is beautifully situated in a narrow glen, between that hill and some small eminences on the north side of the road from Long-Ashton to Bourton. At the bottom of the vale runs a fine stream, through fertile meadows thickly clothed with wood. The hill to the north exhibits a real picture of wild uncultivated nature; being composed of shelving scars, romantically disposed, intermingled here and there with herbage, and exposing on their acclivities a number of antiquated yew-trees, shrinking their withered heads from the western blasts, which here blow strongly in the winter season from the channel.

At YANLEIGH, anciently YONLEGH, a hamlet situated between Ashton and Dundry, have been discovered the foundations of ancient buildings, supposed to be Roman.

The christenings and burials in this parish from the year 1700 to 1710, and from the year 1770 to 1780 inclusive, have been as follows:

Christenings.



Christenings.	Burials.	Christenings.	Burials.
1700 — 17	1700 — 11	1770 — 11	1770 — 6
1701 — 15	1701 — 9	1771 — 20	1771 — 14
1702 — 13	1702 — 14	1772 — 12	1772 — 18
1703 — 14	1703 — 15	1773 — 15	1773 — 11
1704 — 18	1704 — 16	1774 — 18	1774 — 15
1705 — 18	1705 — 8	1775 — 14	1775 — 22
1706 — 16	1706 — 11	1776 — 10	1776 — 18
1707 — 16	1707 — 18	1777 — 20	1777 — 19
1708 — 20	1708 — 11	1778 — 15	1778 — 17
1709 — 18	1709 — 10	1779 — 14	1779 — 12
1710 — 7	1710 — 14	1780 — 22	1780 — 18
Total — 172	Total — 137	Total 171	Total 170

## B A C K W E L L.

A Parish seven miles southwest from Bristol, the principal dwellings thereof standing in the turnpike-road from that city to Yatton; but there are a few houses near the church half a mile toward the southwest. The situation is very pleasant, having eminences to the south and east; a rich country to the west; and the fine range of hills which run along the hundred of Portbury to the north and northwest at about three miles distance. The hills east and southward from the church are in a romantick manner wildly scared with rocks, and patched with shrubs and forest trees, with deep winding glens between them, in which some of the houses are picturesquely situated. These hills are composed of vast masses of calcareous stone, very hard, of a reddish colour, with blue and white veins, and susceptible of a very good polish. A brook from Long-Ashton passes through the parish under a stone bridge of a single arch.

A market was formerly held here on Mondays by a grant made to Sir Richard de Rodney, lord of this manor, 11 Edw. II.<sup>a</sup> and confirmed 18 Hen. VII.; and a fair, of royal charter also, is still held here Sept. 21, for cattle and pedlary ware. There was also a charter of free warren for this manor. King William the Conqueror gave the place to the bishop of Coutances, of whom it was held by two domesticks of the name of Fulcran and Nigel.

“Fulcran and Nigel hold of the Bishop, BACOILE. Turchil held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for ten hides. The arable is fourteen carucates, occupied by thirty-two villanes, and twenty-one cottagers, and two servants. There is a mill of four shillings rent, and twenty-four acres of meadow, pasture one mile long, and half a mile broad. Coppice wood one mile long, and two furlongs broad. It was and is worth eight pounds.”<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Cart. 11 Edw. II.

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Domesday.

When this manor fell into the hands of the crown by the bishop's death, it was divided into two portions; one of which the Empress Maud, daughter of King Hen. I. gave, together with the manors of Lamyat and Hurlestone, and divers other lands in this county, to Walter de Rodney, ancestor of the Rodneys of Rodney-Stoke in the hundred of Winterstoke.<sup>c</sup>

This moiety of the manor, in regard it was sometime held by the family of Bayouse or de Baiocis, was denominated *Backwell-Bayouse*; as the other moiety was called *Backwell-Sore*, from its ancient possessors of that denomination. And to this day the two tithings into which the parish is divided retain the names of *Backwell-Bayouse* and *Backwell-Sores*.

47 Henry III. Thomas de Baiocis and Mary his mother are certified to hold eight knights' fees in the different parishes of Backwell, Twiverton, Saltford, Winford, and Stoke;<sup>d</sup> all which were held 24 Edw. I. by Joceus de Baiose of the honour of Gloucester.<sup>e</sup> 47 Henry III. William le Sor held the other part of the parish of Backwell, consisting of one knight's fee; and also the manor of Claverham.<sup>f</sup>

The family of le Sor, which lasted but a very short period in these parts, were of some distinction, being allied to the Clares earls of Gloucester. There were two Williams and one John Le Sor, who successively possessed this estate. 3 Edw. I. Isabel Sore, or Soore, lady of Clare, was in possession of a moiety of the manor of Backwell, and that year granted to Richard Rodney and his heirs for ever a certain piece of land lying on Backwell-Hill.<sup>g</sup> The same lady had also a moiety of the advowson of the church.<sup>h</sup> But in the beginning of the reign of Edw. III. this family became extinct, and this moiety of the manor passed to Elizabeth Wickham, one of the coheiresses of Le Sor, who conveyed all her right herein to Sir Walter Rodney, who thus became lord of the whole undivided manor, and in whose descendants it continued till the time of Queen Elizabeth.

This family, of whom more particular mention will be made in that parish to which they gave their name, possessed also a variety of other manors. An inquisition taken 6 Edw. IV. sets forth that Sir Walter Rodney, knt. died seized of the manors of Congresbury and Badgworth; lands in Draycot; the manor of Lamyat with lands therein; the manor of Backwell, and the hamlets of Felton, Winford, and Farley, members and parcel of the said manor of Backwell, with the advowson of the churches of Backwell and Winford; the manors of Stoke-Rodney, Hallatrow, Twiverton, and Saltford, and lands and tenements in Chard and the city of Wells.<sup>i</sup>

The seal of John de Rodney lord of Backwell 21 Edw. III. was three spread eagles.<sup>k</sup>

From the family of Rodney the manor passed to that of Fitz-James, and afterwards to Sir John Churchill, knt. master of the Rolls, and was, about the year 1710, purchased of the trustees and coheirs of Sir John Churchill by guardians for the use of Thomas Thynne, esq; ancestor of Lord Viscount Weymouth, the present pos-

<sup>c</sup> Harl. MS. No. 1153. p. 40.

<sup>d</sup> Lib. Feod.

<sup>e</sup> Ibid.

<sup>f</sup> Ibid.

<sup>g</sup> Cart. Antiq.

<sup>h</sup> Efc.

<sup>i</sup> Inq. post. mort. Walter Rodney. mil.

<sup>k</sup> Seals from ancient deeds.



seffor. The manor-house, which stood eastward from the church is taken down, and nothing of it remains excepting a small wing near the church-yard. Against the front were the arms of Sir John Churchill, *Sable*, a lion rampant *argent*, debruised with a bendlet *gules*, impaling *argent* a chevron *sable*, over all a file with three lambeaux *gules*, for Prideaux:

The hamlets belonging to this parish are,

1. WEST-TOWN, pleasantly situated near a mile westward from the church, containing several good houses.
2. FARLEY, in the turnpike-road, half a mile north.
3. MOOR-SIDE, a mile northwest.
4. DOWN-SIDE, near two miles southeast. Jocus de Bayouse gave lands in this hamlet to Keynsham-abbey.

There was a park at Backwell, containing one hundred and forty acres, belonging to the Rodneys.

A. D. 1292 the value of the rectory of Backwell was certified at fifteen marks.<sup>k</sup> Soon after which valuation, viz. A. D. 1306, it was granted by Ralph de Salopia, bishop of Bath and Wells, to the brethren of the hospital of St. John the Baptist at Redcliff-pit in Bristol, they representing to him their being in a starving condition.<sup>l</sup> 9 Oct. 1343 the bishop admitted a vicar to the said church, who was presented thereto by the master of the above hospital, the true and undoubted patron thereof.<sup>m</sup> The rectory is now a sinecure belonging to Mr. De Best, who is appropriator of the vicarage, of which the Rev. Mr. Wake is the present incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Andrew, is a very handsome structure of fine stone and excellent masonry, consisting of a nave, chancel, two side aisles, a chapel, vestry-room, porch, and belfry, all leaded except the chancel. At the west end stands a very elegant tower, embattled, with open turreted pinnacles, and containing five bells.

The chancel is decorated with a very fine altar-piece given by the Rev. J. Markham, rector of the living, in the year 1771. This altar-piece formerly stood in the old church of St. Leonard in Corn-street, Bristol, and when that church was taken down, it was purchased by Mr. Markham, and placed here. The font is circular, and is removed into the church-yard under the wall of the south aisle.

On the north side of the chancel is a large ancient Gothick tomb, on which lies the effigy in stone of one of the Rodney family, whose burial place was in the adjoining chapel. Above the effigy on a long scroll is the following inscription:

“ Within this chapel lyeth Elizabeth the first founderys of this chapell,  
and of the floke of thepe to the quarter tymes<sup>n</sup> lat ..... knyght, and before

<sup>k</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

<sup>l</sup> Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

<sup>m</sup> Ibid.

<sup>n</sup> This inscription was either written by a Frenchman, who understood not English, or translated by an Englishman who understood not French. To the quarter tymes is an ungrammatical translation of the French *A le quatre tems*, a term in that language used for the Ember Weeks, or four seasons of the year appointed for fasting; at which seasons this lady here interred, might have instituted either some publick service in the church, or particular benefaction to the poor.

that wyff to Sr Watar Rodney knyght and wyffur to Sr Wyllyam Compton knyght whyche Elizabeth departed the ..... in the yere of grace m<sup>c</sup>ccccxxvi."

On the tomb above and below, and also within the chapel, are the arms of Rodney, and the family alliances.

Within the chapel, on the east wall, is an old stone monument with a brass plate, having thereon the portraiture of a man and woman kneeling at an altar face to face with three children behind each of them; the inscription is as follows:

"Here lyeth the bodies of Rice Davis, esq; who reedified this chapel, and died 2 Sept. 1638, and Dorothe his wife, daughter to Morice Rodney, esq; and sister and coheir to Sir George Rodney, knt. Shee died the 12th of Jan<sup>y</sup> 1604, and had issue betwene them 3 sonnes deceased, and three daughters now livinge, viz. Johan, Elizabeth, and Margaret." Arms: Quarterly, first and fourth, *Gules*, a griffin segreant *or*; second and third, *sable*, a chevron *or* between three spears' heads, *argent*.

On a small marble against the same wall:—"Elizabeth the daughter of Edward Harvey, esq; and Elizabeth his wife, of Brockley-Combe, under this subjacent stone lieth deposited.

Thy life was like thyself, a span,  
In measure ended as began.  
Short in dimension, short in stay,  
Five days induc'd, reduc'd thy clay."

Arms: *Sable*, a fesse *or* between three squirrels sejant *argent*.

In the south wall of the chancel are three of those niches commonly called *tabernacles*.

This church was pewed, paved, and ornamented, A. D. 1771. Samuel Filer, churchwarden.—In the church-yard near the south door is an old cross quite perfect, with a dial on the top.

## B A R R O W

**I**S a parish of one tithing, denominated after its ancient owners *Barrow-Gournay*, situated six miles southwest from Bristol, and one mile east from Backwell. The greater part of the houses stand scattered in a kind of street half a mile distant from the church; but the environs of the church are called *Barrow-Minchin*, from a house of *Minicenes*<sup>a</sup>, or nuns, which stood there on the scite of the present mansion-house; a pleasant, but exposed situation, commanding an extensive view over the city of Bristol, and the hundred of Portbury.

The whole place belonged in ancient times to that monopolizer of property Geoffrey bishop of Coutances, as we learn from the following survey:

<sup>a</sup> Sax. MINICENE, *Monialis*, a nun.



" Nigel holds of the bishop, BERVE. Edric held it in the time of King Edward, " and gelded for ten hides. The arable is fourteen carucates. In demesne are two " carucates, and three servants, and fifteen villanes, and seven cottagers. There is a mill " of five shillings rent, and thirty-five acres of meadow, and thirty acres of pasture. " Wood one mile long, and one furlong broad. It was and is worth ten pounds."<sup>b</sup>

When it reverted to the crown, King William Rufus bestowed it with other lands in these parts on Robert Fitz-Harding; from whom it descended to Eva his granddaughter and heir, the wife of Thomas de Harpetree, son of William de Harpetree, who 7 Ric. I. paid fifty marks for this his inheritance.<sup>c</sup>

Robert, the son and heir of this Thomas de Harpetree, adopted the name of *Gournay*, and annexed it to this his manor, in order to distinguish it from the other *Barrows* in this county.

To him succeeded Anselm and John de Gournay, successive owners of this manor: which last, by Oliva his wife, daughter of Henry lord Lovel, of Castle-Cary in this county, (who had this manor and that of East-Harptree in jointure) left issue one only daughter and heir Elizabeth, married to John Ap-Adam, who had livery of his said wife's lands 19 Edw. I.<sup>d</sup> and 24 Edw. I. had a charter of free warren in the manor of Barrow.<sup>e</sup> He died 11 Edw. II. and was succeeded by

Thomas Ap-Adam, his son and heir, who 4 Edw. III. conveyed this manor to Thomas de Berkeley and Margaret his wife<sup>f</sup>; and in their descendants, the Berkeleys of Beverstone, it continued till the reign of Hen. VIII. when we find it in the possession of the family of Compton.

34 Hen. VIII. Peter Compton was lord of the manor of Barrow-Gournay.<sup>g</sup> His wife's name was Anne, who surviving him was married secondly to William Earl of Pembroke. After his death it was successively held by Francis Compton, Sir Henry Compton, and William lord Compton, all living in the time of Queen Elizabeth. 38 Eliz. William Lord Compton sold this manor to William Clarke, esq; who, jointly with trustees, in three years after, sold also the same to William Hanham and others; and they about 1 Jac. I. conveyed it to Francis James, L. L. D. 11 Car. I. Francis and William, the sons of Dr. James, disposed of the same to Robert Cotterel, whose daughter and heiress, the wife of — Hazle, succeeded to the possession of it.

Which Hazle by his said wife had one daughter Magdalen, married to Benjamin Tibbot, who enjoyed this estate, and left it to his son John Tibbot, who died seized of it in 1674. Ruth, daughter of this John Tibbot, and first wife of William Gore, esq; inherited this manor, and left issue a daughter Mary, married to Anthony Blaggrave, esq; by whom she had two sons, John and Anthony, whose cousin and heir John Blaggrave, esq; is the present possessor.

In this parish, on the hill westward from Barrow-Gournay, one of the Fitz-Hardings, lord of the manor, founded a Benedictine nunnery to the honour of St. Mary and St.

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Domesday.<sup>c</sup> Rot. Pip. 7 Ric. I.<sup>d</sup> Rot. Fin. 19 Edw. I.<sup>e</sup> Cart. 24 Edw. I.<sup>f</sup> Cart. Antiq.<sup>g</sup> Efc.

Edwin; but which at the Reformation was dedicated to the Holy Trinity. Leland<sup>b</sup> attributes its foundation to one of the Gournays, but it must have been before either of their times, as it is noticed so early as the reigns of Richard I. and King John; particularly in the will of Hugh bishop of Lincoln, made A. D. 1211<sup>1</sup>, wherein he leaves to the house of nuns at Barrow ten marks; *Domui Monialium de Berwe* 10 marc.<sup>k</sup> 35 Edw. III. Sir Richard de Acton gave lands in Barrow-Gournay to the priory of Minchin-Barrow. 44 Edw. III. Sir Richard de Acton and others gave a messuage and seventy-nine acres of land in Barrow-Gournay to the same priory. 2 Hen. IV. Gilbert Hareclive gave to Joan Panes, prioress of Barrow, and her successors for ever, a meadow in an inclosure called Chappelmeade, in Barrow-Gournay, containing two acres.<sup>1</sup> The nuns had also a pension of two marks out of the rectory of Twiverton near Bath;<sup>m</sup> and the same sum out of the appropriated tithes of Barrow-Gournay.

Thomas de Berkeley was patron of this priory, the advowson of which belonged to the manor of Barrow-Gournay in 1316.

That same year, Johanna de Gurney was elected prioress of this house, Oct. 4, and resigned in April 1325.

Agnes de Sancta Cruce, elected 1325. She died 1328.

<sup>b</sup> Itin. vii. 88.

<sup>1</sup> Godwin de Præfulibus, 289.

“<sup>k</sup> TESTAMENTUM HUGONIS EPISCOPI LINCOLN. Lego pro anima mea 500 marcas ad fabricam ecclesie. Lincoln.; & 500 marcas ad emendas terras redditus & possessiones ad augmentandum commune ejusdem ecclesie. Vicariis Linc. Eccles. 60 marcas; et 300 marcas ad distribuendum per domos religiosas Episcopatus Linc.; et 100 marcas ad distribuendum per domos leproforum ejusdem Episcopatus; et 100 marcas per domos hospital. episcopatus ejusdem; et 300 marcas distribuendas ecclesiis quas habui ad libros & ornamenta emenda. Domui de Stanleg. 30 marc. Domui de Quarrer 20 marcas; Domui de Poleston. 30 marc. Domui de Fernleg. 10 marc. Domui de Plinton. 100 marc. Ad hospitale construendum pro anima Jordani de Turry, vel ad alias elemosynas pro anima sua faciendas, 300 marc. Domui leproforum de Selwod 3 marc. Domui monialium de Berwe 10 marc. Domui de Berlich 3 mar. Ad fabricam ecclesie de Bokland 20 marc. Domui de Caninton 5 marc. Ad construendum hospitale apud Well. 500 marc. Hospitali Bath 7 marc. & dim. Domui leproforum extra Bath 3 marc. Leprosis extra Ivelcestr. 3 marc. Monialibus de Stodleg in Oxensfordshire 7 marc. & dim. Magistro Johi. de Ebor. nisi a me beneficiatus fuerit, cent. marc. Filiabus Willielmi de Stratton. 300 marc. ad eas maritandas Puellæ de Sco Edward 150 marc. ad se maritandam. Puero de Evercrich 40 marc. ad eum exhibend. Pauperibus de consanguinitate mea 100 marc. Volo autem quod restituantur hominibus meis tam militibus quam aliis, facta mihi restitutione quæ me & eos contingit, omnia quæ ab eis capta sunt injuste in hoc interdicto. Item lego Canonicis de Morton 20 marc. Canonicis de Sca Barbara 20 marc. Pro anima filii Stephani personæ de Dokesmersf. 7 marc. & dim. Autem testamenti mei executores constituo Dominum Bath. & Magistrum Hel de Derham ad recipiend. omnia & distribuend. ut prædixi, & Dominum Cant. & confratres & co-episcopales meos rogo, quatenus pro Deo & honore ecclesie Dei, & pro salute animarum suarum & meæ cum requisiti fuerint consilium & auxilium efficax apponant ut hoc testamentum meum compleatur. Quod autem ultra hæc omnia prædicta remanserit tam de his quæ mihi restituenda sunt, quam de aliis bonis meis & his quæ mihi debentur, volo quod per prædictos executores mei testamenti distribuantur pro anima mea tam pauperibus per Episcopatum Lincoln. quam alibi sicut magis viderint expedire. Ad hæc lego ad fabricam Ecclesie Well. 300 marc. & ad commune ecclesie ipsius augmentandum tam ad opus Vicariorum quam Canonicorum 300 marc.; et 40 marc. distribuendas Vicariis ecclesie memoratæ. Act. apud Sanctum Martinum de Garenn. in die Sci Bricii pontificatus mei 3<sup>to</sup>, presentibus Dno J. Bath Episcopo, magistro Hel de Derham, magistro Joh. de Ebor. magistro Regin. de Cestr. magistro Willielmo Rogero & Hel capellanis, Petro de Cic. & Will. de Ham.”

<sup>1</sup> Inq. ad quod Damn.

<sup>m</sup> Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.



Basilia de Sutton succeeded the same year, and died June 13, 1340.

Juliana de Grandy was elected Aug. 12, 1340.

Agnes Walim, prioress elect, confirmed Oct. 20, 1348.

Joan Panes was prioress 1400.

Margery Fitz-Nichol, resigned Sept. 2, 1410.

Johanna Stabler, May 20, 1432.

Agnes Leveregge, 1463.

Isabella Cogan, March 2, 1511.

The revenues of this priory were valued in 1426 at four marks, and 26 Henry VIII. at 23l. 14s. 3d.

After its suppression King Henry VIII. in the 28th year of his reign granted the house and the demesne lands to John Drew of Bristol, esq; for twenty-one years at the rent of 5l. 1s. 8d. This Drew converted the old building into a good dwelling-house.<sup>a</sup> 22 May, 36 Henry VIII. the King granted the reversion of the above premises, and also the manor of Minchin-Barrow, and the rectory of Minchin-Barrow and Barrow-Gournay, with the advowson of the church and the rent before reserved, to William Clarke, esq; and his heirs. Christopher Clarke, son and heir of the said William Clarke, 9 Nov. 44 Eliz. sold the above manor, &c. to Francis James, LL.D. and Blanch his wife, and the heirs of the said Francis. 13 July, 11 Car. I. Francis son of the said Francis James conveyed the same to Sir Francis Dodington, knt. and John his son, and the heirs of the said John. 16 July 1659, Sir Francis Dodington and John his son sold the above to William Gore, esq; and his heirs.

Which William Gore was second son of John Gore, of Gilston in Hertfordshire, esq; and died July 10, 1662, leaving issue

Sir Thomas Gore, knt. his son and heir. He married Philippa daughter and coheir of Sir Giles Tooker, of Maddington in the county of Wilts, by whom he had two sons, William and Edward.

William died in 1718, and left issue another William, who died in 1769 without issue.

Edward Gore, the other son of Sir Thomas married Arabella daughter and coheir of Sir John Smyth, by whom he left issue two sons, John and Edward.

John, the eldest, is the present possessor of Barrow-Court, and resides in the manor-house, a good old building near the church.

Edward Gore, the second son, is of Kiddington in Oxfordshire. He married Barbara, the daughter and heir of Sir George Browne, bart. and relict of Sir Edward Mostyn, of Talacre in the county of Flint, bart. by whom he has living three sons, William Gore Langton, John, and Charles. The arms of Gore are, *Gules*, a fesse between three cross crosslets fitché *or*.

The living of Barrow is a donative in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster, and in the patronage of John Gore, esq. The Rev. Mr. Goddard is the present incumbent.

<sup>a</sup> Lel. Iun. vii. 106.

The church is a small building, consisting of a nave, chancel, and south aisle. At the west end is a tower containing three bells.

In the upper window on the north side of the altar are these arms; 1. Barry wavy of six *argent* and *gules*: Bayouse. 2. *Argent*, two chevrons *sable*, between three roses *gules*, seeded *or*: Drew. 3. *Argent*, three cinquefoils per pale *azure* and *gules*: Choke. *Argent*, a chevron *sable* between three lions dormant coward *gules*: Lyons.

In the window over the altar, 1. Quarterly per fesse indented *argent* and *azure*, in the first quarter a mullet *gules*: Acton. 2. Effaced.

Over the north porch, and east window, on the outside of the church, are two shields, bearing on a bend between two lions rampant three escallop shells: Clarke.

Against the east wall of the chancel is a handsome marble monument with the following inscription:—

“Under the altar are deposited the remains of Edward Gore, esq; son of Sir Thomas Gore, knight, (by Philippa, sister and coheirs to Sir Giles Tooker, bart. of Mad-dington in Wiltshire) and second in paternal descent from Sir John Gore, knight, of Gilston in Hertfordshire, who was lord-mayor of London 1624.—*Whittleigh* and *Aldrington* in Wiltshire were the ancient seats of the Gores, from the 5th year of King Edward the Third for many centuries; from this stock sprung several flourishing branches, particularly the Gores of Hertfordshire, who received the honour of knight-hood for their distinguished loyalty, and firm attachment to King Charles the First.

“In a grave adjoining is also interred his wife Arabella, sister and one of the coheirs of Sir John Smyth, of Long-Ashton, baronet, who by maternal extraction was lineally descended from Mowbrey first Duke of Norfolk, and the Earls Poulett and Ashburnham families.

“Edward and Arabella Gore were both eminently conspicuous for their piety, benevolence and charity, resignation and humility, and all those Christian graces, which eclipse the lustre even of an honourable ancestry. He died Sept. 18, A. D. 1742, æt. 70. She, Oct. 27, 1748, æt. 48. They left issue two sons, John and Edward.”

Arms: Quarterly, first and fourth, *Gules*, a fesse between three cross crosslets fitchée, *or* for Gore. Second and third, *vert*, on a bend engrailed *argent* three body-hearts, *gules*: Tooker. On an escutcheon of pretence, *gules*, on a chevron between three cinquefoils *argent*, as many leopards' faces *sable*: Smyth.

In the south aisle is a monument of white, grey, and Sienna marble, whereon in two arched recesses are the effigies of Dr. Francis James and his wife kneeling; he in a counsellor's robe and large white ruff, with four boys behind him, and over him on a shield, *Sable*, a dolphin embowed between three crosses botony *or*: James. She is attired in black, and has five girls kneeling behind her, and above, *Sable*, three gauntlets, *argent*. Underneath is this inscription:

“Here lieth the body of Francis James, Dr. of Lawe, one of the masters of the high court of chancery, judge of the court of audience of the lord archbishop of Canterbury,



Canterbury, and chancellor of the diocese of Bath and Wells; who living was worthily beloved of all honest men, and dead hartely of them deplored. He DIED 26 March, 1616; in whose remembrance Blanch James his beloved wife did erect this monument."

On an old mural monument of stone against the east wall:—"M. S. Gemmulam viator, quam hic subtus capsulatam cernis, Catherina Bampfyldia est, ex honestissima Sydenhamorum familia oriunda, nupta non data Josepho Bampfyld, sacratissimæ Caroli Britannici Majestati A Chiliarchis: femina, Deo suo charissima; bonis omnibus desideratissima; utqui pietatis omnis religionisque, maximum, si non exemplar unicum. Quæ post plurimas temporum fortunarumque vicissitudines, post maximas morborum ægritudinumque procellas; post labores mascule exantlatos, omnes et singulos; hic tandem in Dño placide obdormit. Ob' Aug. 12, 1657." Arms: On a bend three mullets, Bampfyld: impaled with three rams passant, Sydenham.

## B U T C O M B E

**S**TANDS on the side of a lonely valley, about three miles west from Chew-Stoke, and the same distance east from Wrington.

This parish comprehends several manors; whereof that of *Butcombe* belonged at the Conquest to the bishop of Coutances, and was thus surveyed:

"Fulcran holds of the bishop, BUDICOME. Elward held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is three carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and two servants, and eleven villanes, and four cottagers, with five ploughs. There is a mill of twenty pence rent, and ten acres of meadow, and thirty acres of wood. It was and is worth four pounds."

After this manor lapsed to the crown by the demise of the bishop of Coutances, it was granted to one of the name of Bodicombe, of whom Walter de Budecumbe and Robert his son possessed it before 1113, whence passing into the family of Mohun, it was about the year 1200 given to Sir Richard de Perceval, ancestor of the Percevals of Weston in Gordano, in marriage with the daughter of William de Mohun, lord of Dunster, and afterwards Earl of Somerset.<sup>b</sup> John de Perceval, grandson of this Sir Richard de Perceval was a great patron and benefactor to monasteries, and among other donations granted to the monks of the Cistercian abbey of Thame in Oxfordshire, one yard-land in this village, adjoining on the north side to a certain plough-land, which the said monks received formerly of the gift of Richard de Perceval, his grandfather, in pure and perpetual alms, for the rebuilding a certain house there belonging to the abbot and convent, for the welfare of King Henry, son of

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> Cart. Antiq.

John his lord, and that of all his predeceffors and fucceffors, that he and they might be partakers of all the benefits and alms which had been, or fhould be made from the days of the apoftles to the end of time; willingly and firmly enjoining, that the faid alms fhould be free of all fecular fervices whatfoever. This deed bears date at Stowell, and was witneffed by Robert and Hugh, brothers of the faid John de Perceval, Robert de Chen, Edward de Bosco, Roger, John, and Afcelin, his fons; Mafter Thomas de Kenn, and others.<sup>c</sup>

In this family of Perceval the manor of Butcombe continued in the male line till the time of King William III. when it fell to Anne, fole daughter and heirefs of Thomas Perceval, who being twice married, firft to Evan Lloyd, of the county of Salop, efq; and afterwards to Thomas Salifbury, of Flintfhire, efq; confented at different times, in favour of her two hufbands, to part with her inheritance.<sup>d</sup>

The manor of Butcombe was held by the fervice of half a knight's fee of John le Sor, and the profits of the manor in the time of Edw. I. are fet down at the fum of two fhillings.<sup>e</sup>

The manor of THRUBWELL, or TROBBEWELL, partly in this parifh, and partly in that of Nemnet, and fo called from *Thrub-Well*, a fpring rifing in the latter, came into the family of Perceval by the marriage of Joan, the daughter of Sir John de Britafhe, with Roger lord Perceval, in the time of Edward I. The hamlet had been the habitation of the family of Britafhe, or Bretefche, for many generations. They are faid to have proceeded originally from a younger branch of the ancient Counts of Guifnes in Flanders; but they probably derived their appellation from a fmall manor in the parifh of Street near Graftonbury called *Brutesayfhe*, where once they had the chief of their poffeffions. 24 Henry II. Richard de Bretefche, lord of this manor, was fined ten marks for trefpaffes committed by him in the King's forests.<sup>f</sup> He died 10 Ric. I. A.D. 1198, leaving iffue

John de Bretefche his fon and heir, who married Margaret, widow of Warin de Ralege, and daughter of Lord Boteler of Overley. 3 Hen. III. he is found entering into a compofition with Adam Gianne and Anne his wife, concerning certain lands in Crewkerne, part of the dowry of the faid Margaret from her former hufband.<sup>g</sup> In the fame reign he was witnefs to a charter of Richard earl of Cornwall, the King's brother, whereby he granted liberty throughout his whole eftate in Cornwall to the abbot and monks of Cleve in this county.<sup>h</sup> In the 23d year of the fame reign he exchanged his right of common in Heygrove, with the mafter of St. John's hofpital in Redcliff-pit,<sup>i</sup> for one yard-land in Thrubwell, formerly held by Walter Fitz-Norman, and for half a yard-land, which the faid John held of the gift of Elias Fitz-William, agreeing to pay ten fhillings and fixpence to the faid mafter, in lieu of all fervices otherwife due for the faid lands. 27 Henry III. he is recorded for non-appearance before the juftices itinerant, in the hundreds of Chew, Wellow, Portbury, Hareclive, and Chewton,<sup>k</sup> in all which hundreds he poffeffed eftates. Not long after this he occurs witnefs to a deed

<sup>c</sup> Cart. Antiq. in Bibl. Cotton.

<sup>d</sup> Houfe of Yvery, i. 455.

<sup>e</sup> Efc.

<sup>f</sup> Rot. Pip. 24 Hen. II.

<sup>g</sup> Rot. Fin. 3 Hen. III.

<sup>h</sup> Mon. Angl. i. 531.

<sup>i</sup> Fin. Somers. 23 Hen. III.

<sup>k</sup> Plac. Coron. 27 Hen. III.  
of



of Geoffrey de Craucombe, whereby he granted his manor of Craucombe in this county to the church of the blessed Virgin Mary of Studley in the county of Oxford.<sup>1</sup>

To him succeeded John de Bretesche his son and heir, lord of the manor of Thrubwell, which he held of Gilbert de Clare, earl of Gloucester, by the service of half a knight's fee.<sup>m</sup> The profits of the court were valued at two shillings. This John 42 Henry III. presented William de Soden to William Briton, chief justice of the forest, to be his woodward of the forest of Winford, who was admitted accordingly.<sup>n</sup> 47 Hen. III. he joined with his wife Engeretta in a grant to William Bozun and his heirs of one messuage and three furlongs of arable land in Heathfield in this county, as also two furlongs and a tenement in Ford; reserving an acknowledgment of two barbed arrows, or in lieu thereof one penny, to be paid annually at Easter.<sup>o</sup> He died 15 Edw. I. leaving issue one sole daughter and heir, Joan, married (as above said) to Roger lord Perceval of Butcombe, progenitor of the present Earl of Egmont. The arms of Bretesche were, *Sable*, a lion rampant *argent*, double queued, crowned *or*.

The family of Clevedon had also possessions in Thrubwell and Butcombe, as had also the abbot and convent of Flaxley in Gloucestershire; and the hospital of St. John in Redcliff-pit in Bristol had also a manor within this parish, which after the dissolution was granted to George Owen, esq; the King's physician,<sup>p</sup> together with the rectory and advowson of the church of Butcombe belonging to the same hospital. After which the manor and advowson of Butcombe were in the family of Bush, and passed by the widow of John Bush, esq; in marriage to William Mann, of London, esq; whose grandson Francis Mann, of Kidlington in Oxfordshire, esq; sold the same, 29 Sept. 1735, to Mr. Richard Plaister, whose son John Plaister conveyed it to John Curtis, esq; whose son sold it, with the advowson of the living, to John Savery, esq; the present possessor. The manor-house, situated near the edge of Broadfield-down, was nearly demolished in the rebellion of the last century.

The manor of ALDWICK, anciently *Aldvic*, or the old town, is also partly within this parish and partly within that of Blagdon. It belonged in the time of William the Conqueror to Serlo de Burci, who was likewise lord of Blagdon:

“Walter holds of Serlo, ALDVIC. Almar held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides. The arable is five carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and two servants, and four villanes, and one cottager. There is a mill of three shillings rent, and fifteen acres of meadow, and forty-nine acres of wood. It was formerly and is now worth forty shillings.<sup>q</sup>

It was afterwards held by the Martins, lords of Blagdon; but in the time of Hen. V. it was held by Sir Thomas Brook, of the abbey of St. Mary of Graces near the tower of London. Of the same abbey it was held 21 Henry VI. by Thomas de Chedder; but afterwards of the Duke of Exeter.<sup>r</sup> By a coheirefs of Thomas de Chedder it passed in marriage to Sir John Newton, knt. and from him descended to Richard

<sup>1</sup> Mon. Ang. i. 487.<sup>m</sup> Lib. Feod.<sup>n</sup> Plac. Forest. in com. Som. 42 Hen. III.<sup>o</sup> Rot. Fin. 47 Hen. III.<sup>p</sup> Ter. Sydenham.<sup>q</sup> Lib. Domefday.<sup>r</sup> Efc.

Newton his son, whose coheirefs carried it in marriage to Sir Giles Capel, knt. It is now the property of Samuel Baker, esq.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster, and in the gift of the lord of the manor. The Rev. Mr. Bere is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Michael, and is a small structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, and chapel on the south side, leaved. On the same side is a strong embattled tower, containing three bells.

Against the south wall of the chancel is a small monument to the memory of Richard Humphreys, rector of this church, who died Nov. 15, A. D. 1716. And in the floor, a memorial for Thomas Powell, another rector, who died Feb. 23, 1681, aged 90.

At the east end of the chapel is a monument of white marble to the memory of "Richard Plaister, gent. who died Jan. 14, 1756, aged 65. Also three of his children by Elizabeth his wife, viz. Martha, Henry, and Rebecca. Also of John Plaister, eldest son of the above Richard Plaister, who died Feb. 10, 1760, aged 36. Also of Elizabeth, relict of the said Richard Plaister, who died Jan. 1, 1767, aged 71.

In the same chapel there is also another marble monument,—“In memory of Mary wife of Richard Plaister, who died the 11th of March 1777, aged 29 years. Also of three of their children, John, Richard, and Mary, who died in their infancy.”

In the chancel windows are some good figures in painted glass, and the initials W. R.

In the church-yard stands an old decayed cross.

## C H E L V Y.

**T**HIS parish, the name of which has been written *Calvice*, *Chelvinch*, *Cheveldlynche*, and *Chelvy*, lies one mile to the right of the seventh mile stone, in the road from Bristol to Yatton. Its situation is in a woody flat; the lands good, and mostly pasture.

It was anciently the land of Matthew de Moretaine, and was held of him by one Rumaldus, a person probably subservient to him in his domestick affairs:

“Rumald holds of Matthew, CALVICE. Torchil held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is three carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and two servants, and three villanes, and four cottagers with two ploughs. There are six acres of coppice wood. It was and is now worth forty shillings.

“From this manor is taken away one virgate of land, which Torchil held with the land abovementioned. The bishop of Coutances holds it.”

Sir Richard de Acton, knt. was possessed of Chelvy in the time of Edw. III.<sup>b</sup> He was a great benefactor to the monastery of Barrow.<sup>c</sup> He left issue William de Acton,

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> Ek. 35 Ed. III.

<sup>c</sup> Pat. 26 Ed. III.



whose daughter and heiress Alice brought it to the family of Perceval, in which it continued for many generations. In the reign of Henry VIII. it was in the family of Aifshe. Richard Aifshe by Margaret his wife was father of John and Hugh. John, the eldest, died 19 Aug. 32 Henry VIII. seized of this manor, Midghill, Tickenham, and Compton-Bishop,<sup>a</sup> leaving issue one son John, and two daughters Joan and Mary. John married Isabel the daughter of Sir Edward Gorges, knt. and sister of Anne the wife of Edward Tynte, esq; who purchased this manor, and was buried in the parish church.

The said Edward Tynte died in 1629, leaving issue five sons, and two daughters. John the eldest married Jane, daughter and heir of Hugh Halfwell, of Halfwell in this county, D. D. and was father of

Halfwell Tynte, esq; created a baronet of Great-Britain by Charles II. He married Grace, daughter and coheir of Robert Fortescue, of Filleigh in the county of Devon, esq; by whom he had a daughter, Grace, and four sons, Halfwell, Fortescue, John, and Robert.

The two eldest dying without issue, John the third son succeeded to the title and estate on the death of his father in 1702, and married Jane eldest daughter of Sir Charles Kemeys, of Keven-Mabley in the county of Glamorgan, bart. He died in 1710, leaving issue three sons, Halfwell, John, and Charles-Kemeys, and one daughter Jane.

Sir Halfwell Tynte, bart. his eldest son and successor, was elected 1 Geo. II. a representative in parliament for Bridgwater. He married Mary, daughter and heir of John Walters, of Brecknock, esq; by whom he had issue two daughters, who both died young, and was succeeded in title and estate by his eldest brother

Sir John Tynte, bart. who was rector of Goathurst in this county, and died unmarried in 1740, whereupon the dignity and patrimonial inheritance devolved on his only surviving brother

Sir Charles Kemeys Tynte, bart. LL.D. who was elected knight of the shire for this county in several parliaments, and was colonel of the second battalion of the Somerset militia. He married Anne, daughter and coheir of the Rev. Dr. Busby, but dying without issue in 1785, the estate became vested in John Johnson, esq; who married his niece, and is the present possessor of this manor. He has assumed the name of Tynte.<sup>c</sup>

The manor-house, formerly inhabited by the Tyntes, is a very large old structure, and had a park adjoining thereto, a warren, and a swanery, all now appropriated to other uses. In this house there are many good apartments, well wainscoted, with handsome cornices gilt, and elegant ciellings; but they are all now locked up, and the windows blinded; only so much of it being inhabited, as is necessary for the farmer's use who occupies it.

MIDGHILL was the land of the bishop of Coutances:

<sup>a</sup> Inq. post mort. Joh. Aifshe.

<sup>c</sup> For the Arms of Tynte, see vol. i. p. 83.

“Lewin holds of the bishop, MEGELE. Almar held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is two carucates, and there are two villanes, and three cottagers, and one servant, and six acres of meadow. It was worth four shillings, now twenty shillings.”

It afterwards descended with the manor of Chelvy.

The church of Chelvy is a rectory, in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster. The lord of the manor is patron, and the Rev. Mr. Parsons is the present incumbent.

It is dedicated to St. Bridget, and consists of a nave, chancel, and south aisle (belonging to the Tynte family) covered with tile. A square tower stands at the west end containing one bell. There are some small remains of painted glass in the windows.

On the floor are these inscriptions:—“Here lyeth the body of Edward Tynte, esq; lord of this manor by his own purchase, who married Anne the daughter of Sir Edward Gorges, of Wraxall, knight; by whome he had issue 5 sons and 2 daughters. He departed this mortal life the 16th of Dec. 1629, in the 59th year of his age.

“Here resteth the body of Anne the wife of Edward Tynte, esq; and daughter of Sir Edward Gorges, who deceased Dec. 24, 1660.

“Here resteth the body of Robert Tynte, gent. who knowing God in his youth, made haste to his Redeemer; May 13, 1636, aged 16.”

In the chancel floor:—“Depositum Gulielmi Gregorii, artium magistri, rectoris istius ecclesiæ, qui mortalitatem exuens, cœlo natus est die 28 Octob. A. D. 1667. Ætat. 77.”

## N E M N E T.

**T**HIS place (like most others) has been variously written, as Nimet, Nempnett, Nemlet, Emnet, and Emet, the etymology of all which is extremely uncertain. It is a parish situated twelve miles south-west from Bristol, and six east from Wrington, on high land, but full of deep hollows pleasingly intermingled with wood. Here are two hamlets:

1. WEST-TOWN, standing a mile and a half westward from the church; and containing three houses.
2. WHITLING-STREET, south-west, seven houses.

In this parish, but on the borders of that of Butcombe, and at a small distance eastward from that parish church, stands a large *tumulus*, or barrow, sixty yards in length, twenty in breadth, and fifteen in height, and covered on its top with ash-trees, briars, and thick shrubs. On opening it some time ago, its composition throughout

was



was found to be a mass of stones, supported on each side lengthwise by a wall of thin flakes. The distance between the two walls is about eight feet, and the intermediate space is filled up with two rows of cells, or cavities, formed by very large stones set edgewise: These cells, the entrance into which is at the south end, run in a direction from north to south; and are divided from each other by vast stones placed on their edges, and covered with others still larger by way of architrave. In one of them were found seven skulls, one quite perfect; in another a vast heap of small human bones, and horses' teeth. All the cells are not yet opened; and as no coins, or any other reliques but the abovementioned, have hitherto been discovered, it cannot be ascertained at what period this receptacle of mortality was constructed; however, it undoubtedly is one of the noblest sepulchres of the kind in Great-Britain; and probably contains the fragments of many brave chieftains, whom some fatal battle near the spot forbid to revisit their natal country. The field in which this barrow stands has from time immemorial been called the *Fairy* field; and the common people say that strange noises have been heard underneath the hill, and visions, portentous to children, have been seen waving in the thickets which crown its summit.

The village of Nemnet is not mentioned in the Conqueror's survey. It was always heretofore an appendage to the manor of Regilbury in this parish, and held by the families of Martin and Perceval for several generations, of the abbot of Flaxley, chief lord of that manor. After the dissolution of monasteries, that manor, with lands and appertinances in Nemnet, Blagdon, Winford, Butcombe, and Regilbury, was granted by King Henry VIII. in the 34th year of his reign to Sir Anthony Kingston, whose son Edward Kingston 7 Eliz. sold it to Edward Barnard, esq; and he the year following conveyed the same to Edward Baber, esq; serjeant at law, and his heirs. From him descended Edward Baber, esq; who lived in the beginning of the present century, and transmitted this with other estates to Sir Halfwell Tynte his next heir; from whom it descended to the late Sir Charles Kemeys Tynte, bart. and his heirs.

The manor-house is a large old building, called Regilbury-house, and is famous for being sometime the retirement of Sir William Wyndham.

On the confines of this parish and that of Chew-Stoke is an old manor called *Beaucham-Stoke* (corruptly *Bichen-Stoke*) from the family of Beauchamp, or de Bello Campo, who once possessed it. It was always held of the honour of Gloucester. In the time of Edw. I. Robert de Walton and his heirs held the tenth part of one knight's fee here.<sup>a</sup> 19 Edw. II. William Martin held a fourth part of a knight's fee in Bychemestok, which Peter de Sancta Cruce formerly held in demesne.<sup>b</sup> 23 Edw. III. the heir of John de Leycester held the tenth part, and Philip le Walleis the fourth part of a fee in Bichenstoke. By an inquisition taken at Wells 23 Oct. 4 Henry VIII. it was found that Thomas Ive died seized of the manor of Bechenstok, and that he held the same of the King as of the honour of Gloucester.<sup>c</sup> Mr. Page, now or late of Bristol, is the present lord.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Feod.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid.

<sup>c</sup> Inq. post mort. Tho. Ive.

Nemnet is a chapel to Compton-Martin; the church, a small structure, dedicated to St. Mary, consists of one pace, with a tower, newly rebuilt, at the west end, which contains five bells.

"By the last will of Madam Florence Baber, bearing date the 3d of April, 1713, was given to this parish the sum of 50l. to be placed out at interest; and the increase and profit thereof to be employed in binding out poor children apprentice to some honest calling, the same to remain for ever."

## W I N F O R D,

(Anciently a FOREST)

**S**TANDS north from Nemnet, in a deep narrow vale, bounded by high hilly grounds, well cultivated and wooded on every side. It comprizes three tithings, viz. WINFORD, REGIL, and FELTON.

The former is surveyed in Domesday Book as the land of the bishop of Coutances:

"The Bishop holds WENFRE. Alwold held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for ten hides. The arable is twenty-two carucates. Of this Roger holds four hides, Folcran five hides, Colfuain one hide. In demesne they have five carucates, and there are seven servants, and nineteen villanes, and twelve cottagers, with fourteen ploughs. There is a mill of forty pence rent, and twenty acres of meadow. Pasture two furlongs long, and one furlong broad. Wood one mile long, and two furlongs broad. The whole was worth nine pounds and five shillings; now twenty shillings more.

"To this manor is added one hide, which Aluric held in the time of King Edward. Now Colfuain holds it of the bishop, and has there two ploughs, and two cottagers. It was and is worth twenty-five shillings."

In the time of Henry II. this manor was in the possession of Gilbert D'Amorie, or De Aumari, who gave fifteen marks for the livery of his lands within this parish.<sup>b</sup> To him succeeded another Gilbert, Nicholas and Richard De Amorie; but in the time of Henry III. and Edw. I. Winford was the estate of the families of Bayouse and Sor. 7 Edw. II. the heirs of Edmund Bassett held a moiety of this manor with the alternate presentation to the living, by the service of one knight's fee of the honour of Gloucester, and the other moiety was held in a similar manner by the heirs of John Le Sor.<sup>c</sup> After which both moieties came into the family of Rodney, who are certified to hold the hamlets of Winford and Felton, as members and parcel of the manor of Backwell, together with the advowson of the church of Winford, lands called

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> Rot. Pip. 15 Hen. II.

<sup>c</sup> Lib. Feod.



Hakker's-Londs in Strode within the parish of Winford, formerly belonging to John Lanyard; and other lands and tenements in the said parish.<sup>d</sup> In the beginning of the present century it was the property of Matthew Ducie Morton, of Tortworth in the county of Gloucester, esq; who sold it to Abraham Elton, esq; afterwards created a baronet, and whose great grandson Isaac Elton, of Stapleton, esq; is the present owner.

The manor of REGIL was in the Conqueror's time the land of Serlo de Burci:

"Guntard holds of Serlo, RAGIOL. Four thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides. The arable is two carucates. In demesne is one carucate, with one servant, and one villane. There are five acres of meadow, and five acres of coppice wood. It is worth thirty shillings.

"To this are added one hide, and one virgate of land. A thane held it freely in the time of King Edward. The arable is three carucates. Walter holds it of Serlo, and has there one plough, and four servants, with one villane, and one cottager. There are three acres of meadow, and three furlongs of wood in length and breadth. It was formerly worth ten shillings, now thirty shillings. This land did not belong to Euuacre."

A very considerable part of this place was given to the Cistercian abbey of Flaxley in Gloucestershire, founded by Roger earl of Hereford in the time of King Henry I. and thus this place became a cell to that monastery. In the time of Edw. III. the abbot thereof held the fourth part of a knight's fee in Regil, and the heir of Herbert de St. Quintin the moiety of a fee in the same village of Hugh Le Dispenfer.<sup>e</sup> The convent seems afterwards to have accumulated large possessions in the parishes of Winford, Nemnet, Butcombe, and Stoke, and to have held most of them in demesne.

This hamlet stands on Broadfield-Down between Winford and Nemnet.

The living of Winford is a rectory in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster, and was in 1292 valued at fifteen marks.<sup>f</sup> The Rev. Mr. Webb is both patron and incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary and St. Peter, is a handsome structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, side aisles, and porch, all covered with lead, and a stately tower at the west end of very good masonry.

At the northeast corner of the south aisle, formerly stood a monument (now removed to another place) whereon lay the effigy of John Cottrell in armour, and over him this epitaph:—"Here lyeth the body of John Cottrell, gentelman, who deceased the 15th day of July in the yeare 1612. Katherine Cottrell, the wife of Tristram Cottrell, esquier, caused this monument to be made in the year 1613."

Arms: *Argent*, a bend between six escallops *sable*. Under the statue in the work of the tomb was this coat: Party per saltire, *sable* and *argent*; in the chief and base of the *sable* part, three trefoils *or*.

<sup>d</sup> Efc. 18 Ed. IV.

<sup>e</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>f</sup> Lib. Feod.

<sup>g</sup> Taxat. Spirit.

In the upper window of the chancel a coat in a round, viz. *Gules*, a saltire between four faces like moons *or*.

On a table hanging in the church, is the following list of benefactions to this parish:

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.			
Mr. John Cottrell	—	6	13	4	1668.	William Yorke	—	5	0	0
John Bush of Regell	—	2	6	8		John Norcot of Barrow	2	0	0	
Edward Bush of London		2	0	0						

By the church-yard rises a fine spring which never fails, forming together with some smaller springs a little river, which turns a gunpowder-mill and a snuff-mill, and then runs through Chew-Stoke to Chew-Magna in its way to Keynsham, where it joins the Avon.





THE HUNDRED OF  
HOUNDSBOROUGH, BERWICK, AND COKER,

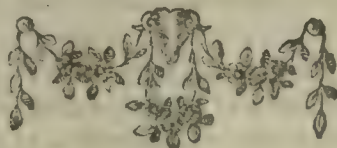
**F**ORMERLY three distinct hundreds; now only one, in the southern part of the county, bordering on Dorsetshire. The parishes which constitute this now undivided district, were anciently distributed as follows, viz.

1. HOUNDSBOROUGH Hundred contained *Odcombe, East-Chinnock, Middle-Chinnock, West-Chinnock, Chiffelborough, Haselborough, Norton-under-Hamden, and North-Parret.*
2. BERWICK Hundred contained *Berwick, and Chilton-Cantelo.*
3. COKER Hundred contained *East-Coker, West-Coker, Clofworth, Hardington, Pendomer, and Sutton-Bingham.*

The appellations of the two last hundreds are obvious from the parishes they recently distinguish; but that of the first was derived from a place, now altogether depopulated, and almost unknown, lying within the parish of Odcombe, between which place and Yeovil there is still a spot called *Houndsborough-Cross*; and near it a house and farm of the name of *Houndston* or *Hounsden*. The ancient name was Hunesberge, and Hunereburgh; and in the year of our Lord 787, Kenulph, king of the West-Saxons, gave it to Tican, abbot of Glastonbury, under the description of a vill, situated on the eastern ripe of the Petride or Parret.<sup>a</sup> King William the Conqueror took it from the abbey, and granted it to Robert earl of Morton, whose son William endowed his monastery at Montacute with both the church and manor of Hunesberge.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Johan. Glaston. Hist. i. 107.

<sup>b</sup> Mon. Angl. i. 669.



## O D C O M B E.

**T**HIS is a considerable parish, three miles west from Yeovil, and six northeast from Crewkerne; it forms only one tithing, but is divided into four hamlets, viz.

1. HIGHER-ODCOMBE, in which stands the church. This part contains forty-six houses.
2. LOWER-ODCOMBE, a street of about thirty-six houses.
3. WOODHOUSE, half a mile west, three houses.
4. WESTBURY, half a mile south, two houses.

The whole number of houses is ninety-two, and of inhabitants nearly five hundred: the parish is rated at about eleven hundred pounds per annum. The bailiff for the hundred is always chosen out of it, and here also is kept the pound for estrays.

In the Conqueror's time this village belonged to the Earl of Morton, as we find it recorded in the survey:

"Ansger holds of the Earl, UDECOME. Edmer held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is five carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and four servants, and ten villanes, and sixteen cottagers, with three ploughs. There is a mill of the rent of seven shillings and sixpence. There are twenty acres of meadow, and twelve acres of pasture, and one furlong of coppice wood. It was and is worth one hundred shillings."

It was one of those manors which were held by barony of the honour of Oakhampton, and in the time of Henry II. was possessed by William de Briwere, or de Briwer, a noble baron, whose father, as Camden in his *Britannia* writes, was so called because he was born on a *bruerium* or heath. This William de Briwer having much interest at court, and being a particular favourite of Richard I. and caressed and respected by all, raised a large estate, and his daughters (on the death of his son without issue) by marriage with the families of Breose, Wake, Mohun, La-fert, and Percy, carried large possessions into those families.<sup>b</sup>

This manor in the division of the estates came to William de Breose, a person of great distinction, who was murdered by Llewellyn prince of Wales. He left issue four daughters his coheirs, of whom Maud the wife of Roger Mortimer, in her life time, enfeoffed Sir William Mortimer, her third son, with this manor. He married Hawise daughter and heir of Robert de Muscegros, and, dying without issue, left Edward lord Mortimer of Wigmore, his elder brother, heir to his estate, which continued in the male descendants of the said Edmund till 3 Hen. VI. at which time, on the death of Edmund the last Earl of March without issue, it passed by an heir female to the house of York. Whence it passed to the Lords Zouch of Harringworth, and after the attainder of John lord Zouch, was granted by Henry VII. to Queen Margaret for her dower.<sup>c</sup> It several

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> Britannia in Somersetshire, new edit. by Mr. Gough, p. 56.

<sup>c</sup> Rot. Parl.



times afterwards resorted to the crown, and was granted to the Duke of Northumberland, the Earl of Hertford, (in whose schedule it is valued at 5l. 2s. 8d.<sup>d</sup>) and others. The manor is now dispersed among the freeholders and tenants.

HOUNDSTON in this parish was formerly thus surveyed among the other possessions of the Earl of Morton:

“Ansger holds of the Earl, HUNDESTONE. Three thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is one carucate, which is in demesne, and two servants, and two villanes, and three cottagers, and three acres and a half of meadow. It was worth ten shillings, now twenty shillings.”<sup>e</sup>

6 Edw. I. Roger de Potford held half a knight's fee in Hounsdon, of John de Mohun.<sup>f</sup>

The church of Odcombe was appropriated to the priory of Montacute, and was valued in 1292 at thirty-four marks.<sup>g</sup> It is a rectory in the deanery of Ilchester; the dean and canons of Christ-Church in Oxford are the patrons, and the Rev. Mr. Burt is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. It is a plain structure of one aisle, with a tower between the nave and chancel. It stands on an elevated spot, commanding a most beautiful and extensive prospect.

There are memorials to the Rev. Mr. Barry, clerk, M. A. rector of this parish, who died Jan. 11, 1781. To the Rev. Mr. Edmund Brickenden, rector, who died Feb. 15, 1707. To Fridefwide, wife of Mr. Brickenden, and daughter of Dr. Robert Creighton, who died Feb. 19, 1708; and to Fridefwide their daughter, who died an infant.

In the chancel lies interred George Coryat, rector of this church in 1570, and prebendary of Warthill in the cathedral of York, 1594,<sup>h</sup> a person highly celebrated for his fine taste in Latin poetry, and other writings. He died in the parsonage-house here on the fourth of March 1606, and his son Tom, of whom we shall soon speak, kept his body above ground till the fourteenth of April following.

This Thomas Coryat, son of George above-mentioned, was a most extraordinary genius, and, for his whimsies and absurdities, acquired himself a name, which seems likely enough to last till the end of extravagance. He was born here in 1577, and became a commoner of Gloucester-hall in Oxford in 1596, where he attained to the knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages. Hence he returned to Odcombe, where he spent some time; but afterwards left it for the metropolis, and was there received into the family of Henry Prince of Wales, which gave him an introduction to all the wits of those times, who, by way of diverting themselves, exposed him to ridicule. In 1608, he rambled to France, Italy, Germany, &c. and at his return published his travels under the title of “Crudities hastily gobbled up in five months' travels in France, Savoy, Italy, Rhetia, Helvetia, some parts of High-Germany, and the Netherlands.” This book was printed in quarto in 1611, and reprinted in 3 vols. octavo, 1776. In 1612, after he had taken leave of his countrymen by an oration spoken at the cross in

<sup>a</sup> MS. Valor. <sup>b</sup> Lib. Domesday. <sup>c</sup> Lib. Feod. <sup>d</sup> Taxat. Spiritual. <sup>e</sup> Athenæ Oxon. i. 335.

Odcombe, he undertook a long journey, with an intention not to revisit his native country till he had spent ten years in travelling. The first place he visited was Constantinople, whence he took occasion to view the several parts of Greece, making his remarks on the two ancient castles of Sestos and Abydos, on Smyrna; Alexandria, and the pyramids near Cairo. From thence he went to Jerusalem, and so on to the Dead Sea, to Aleppo in Syria, to Babylon in Chaldea, to the kingdom of Persia, and to Uspahan the residence of the Persian king. Thence to Seras, anciently called Shushan; to Candahor, the first province northeast under the subjection of the Great Mogul, and so to Lahore, the chief city but one belonging to that empire. From Lahore he went to Agra, where, being well received by the English factory, he made a halt, till he had acquired the knowledge of the Turkish and Arabian languages. He likewise made himself master of the Persian and Indostan tongues, which were of great use to him in travelling up and down the Great Mogul's dominions. In the Persian tongue he made an elaborate harangue to the Mogul; and in the Indostan he had so great a command, that he is said to have undertaken a laundry-woman of that country, who had such a liberty and freedom of speech, that she would sometimes scold, brawl, and rail from sun-rising to sun-set; and to have so silenced her by eight o'clock in the morning, that she had not one word more to speak, to the great astonishment and diversion of the company. After he had visited several places in that country, he went to Surat in East-India, where he fell ill of a flux, of which he died in 1617. What became of all his notes and diaries no one knows; but many of his observations, letters, and harangues, were transmitted to England, and published; among the rest was his oration, "*Purus, Putus Coryatus; Quintessence of Coryate;*" spoken extempore, when Mr. Rugg dubbed him a knight on the ruins of Troy, by the name of Thomas Coryate, the first English *knight* of Troy.<sup>1</sup> His journies were mostly on foot, and he always lay in his clothes to save the trouble and expence of shifting them. But notwithstanding all his oddities, he had certainly merit as a traveller, linguist, antiquarian, and historian.

Humphrey Hody, an eminent divine, was another native of this place, of which his father was rector. He was born here Jan. 1, 1659, was educated at Wadham-college in Oxford, and at the age of twenty-one distinguished himself by a "Dissertation against Aristæas's history of the Seventy-two Interpreters."<sup>2</sup> His subsequent publications were both numerous and learned. He was in 1698 appointed Regius Professor of the Greek tongue in the university of Oxford, and instituted to the archdeaconry of Oxford in 1704. He died Jan. 20, 1706, and was buried in Wadham-college chapel.

This Humphrey Hody, or another of his name, left lands to the amount of five pounds per annum, for the purpose of binding out poor children apprentices. To which benefaction Mrs. Clarke of Houndston farm added forty shillings, and Mr. Ring, of Yateminster in Dorsetshire, twenty shillings more.

The christenings in this parish are on an average ten; the burials, nine.

<sup>1</sup> Athenæ Oxon. i. 426.

<sup>2</sup> Biog. Diſt. vii. 160.



## E A S T - C H I N N O C K

LIES eastward from Crewkerne, and in the turnpike-road betwixt that town and Yeovil. There is in this parish a salt spring, about a mile west from the church. It is in a meadow of deep rusty red and yellowish rich loamy earth, covered with a thick fine turf. The spring forms a pool of water, in which are reeds and other aquatick plants, with divers species of conservas; but none of them of the marine kind. This spring never fails in dry, nor overflows in wet seasons. From the pool narrow drains are cut to a house erected for the purpose of making salt with the water thereof, in which the proportion of salt seems to be about one-fortieth part; for with this water they can make one pound of salt in forty more than they can with other water, under a similar operation, and with a like quantity of rock salt.

There are three villages of the name of Chinnock; it is therefore difficult to distinguish them in the old Domesday survey, where they are thus described:

“The Earl himself [i. e. of Morton] holds CINIOCH. Edmer held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for seven hides. The arable is seven carucates. In demesne are three carucates, and four servants, and ten villanes, and twelve cottagers, with four ploughs. There is a mill of fifteen pence rent, and sixty acres of meadow, and twenty acres of pasture. It was worth one hundred shillings; now twelve pounds.”

“Malger holds of the Earl, CINIOCH. A thane held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is three carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and three servants, and two villanes, and nine cottagers, with one plough. There are thirty-six acres of meadow. It was worth four pounds, now three pounds.”

“Alured holds of the Earl, CINIOCH. A thane held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for four hides. The arable is four carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and five servants, and five villanes, and ten cottagers, with two ploughs. There is a mill of ten shillings rent, and forty acres of meadow, and two acres of pasture. It is worth four pounds.”

William, the son of this Robert Earl of Morton, whose lands are here recited, gave both the manor and church of East-Chinnock to his monastery at Montacute; the prior whereof 37 Hen. III. procured a charter of free warren for all his lands here,<sup>a</sup> which were in 1293 valued at ten pounds.<sup>c</sup>

After the dissolution of the priory of Montacute, King Henry VIII. in the thirty-seventh year of his reign, granted the manor of East-Chinnock, with that of Clofworth, Park-Wood, West-Grove, Whitechapel-Wood, and St. Augustine's-Grove, all belonging to the same priory, to Sir Richard Moryson, knight, and Bridget his wife, who 4 Edw. VI. sold it to Stephen Hales, esq; and he, 3 Elizabeth, to Henry

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.    <sup>b</sup> Ibid.    <sup>c</sup> Ibid.    <sup>d</sup> Cart. 37 Hen. III. m. 8.    <sup>e</sup> Taxat. Temporal.

Portman, esq; in which family it continued in a lineal male descent till the time of William III. when Sir William Portman, bart. and knight of the Bath, entailed his whole great estate on his cousin Henry Seymour, esq; William Berkeley, esq; and several others; on condition of the successors' assuming the name of Portman. Henry Portman Seymour succeeded in it accordingly, but died without issue; whereupon it came to William Berkeley Portman, esq; and after him to his eldest son, Henry William Portman, one of the knights of this county in parliament; whose son, Henry William Portman, esq; now enjoys it.

The rectory was taxed in 1292 at fifteen marks.<sup>f</sup> The King is patron of the vicarage of this living; the Rev. Henry Gould the present incumbent.

The church has in it nothing of account; the christenings annually are twelve; the burials eight.

Mr. William Salisbury, of Barking in Essex, who lies buried in the chancel here, gave to this parish a large silver cup gilt, for the use of the altar; and five pounds a year to the poor for ever. He also left ten shillings to the minister to preach a sermon on the eighteenth day of June, to be paid out of his estate lying in the forest of Neroche, and in the parish of Barrington in this county.

<sup>f</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

## MIDDLE-CHINNOCK

**A**DJOINS to East-Chinnock on the north, and contains twenty-one houses, most of which are farms. Considerable quantities of hemp and flax grow here and in East-Chinnock; and the poor are generally employed in spinning and weaving sail-cloth, &c.

17 Edw. I. William de Albemarle held this manor at his death, and was succeeded by Geoffrey his son and heir.<sup>a</sup> From which family it came by marriage to that of Maltravers. John lord Maltravers, of Hooke in the county of Dorset, died seized of it 9 Richard II.<sup>b</sup> leaving Elizabeth his daughter and coheiress, married to Sir Humphrey Stafford, knt. whose descendant, Humphrey Stafford earl of Devon, died seized of Middle-Chinnock and West-Chinnock, 9 Edw. IV. leaving three female cousins his coheiresses, of whom Eleanor, the wife of Thomas Strangeways, inherited this estate. From this Thomas descended Giles Strangeways, who held this manor, and that of West-Chinnock, 35 Henry VIII. and they continued in his descendants till the time of George I. when Thomas Strangeways, esq; dying without issue male, left two sisters his coheirs; the eldest of whom, Susannah, was married to Thomas Horner, of Mells, esq; the other was second wife to the duke of Hamilton. The eldest sister had this manor and that of West-Chinnock settled on her and her heirs; and had by

<sup>a</sup> Esc.      <sup>b</sup> Ibid.



the said Thomas Horner an only daughter, Elizabeth, married to Stephen Fox, esq; afterwards created Lord Ilchester, whose son Henry Thomas Fox, the present earl of Ilchester, is lord of this manor, as well as that of West-Chinnock.

The living is a rectory, in the deanery of Ilchester, valued in 1292 at sixteen marks.<sup>c</sup> The patronage thereof belongs to the manor, and the Rev. Mr. Wightwick is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Margaret, according to Mr. Willis; but according to others to St. Luke; it is a small structure apparently very ancient, the arch over the south door being of Saxon architecture. Under the side seat in the porch is an arched niche, in which stand the head and shoulders of the stone statue of a female; the rest is beneath the pavement. Images of saints were frequently placed in church porches for a memento to devotees.

John Strangeways, esq; gave to this parish twenty pounds, the interest to be paid annually to the second poor. To this benefaction the Rev. Mr. Clarke added five pounds.

William Good, an ecclesiastick of this place, but native of Glastonbury, got himself a name by a book (now very scarce) which he published under the title of *Ecclesiæ Anglicanæ Trophæa*, printed at Rome in 1584. He died at Naples, July 5, 1586.<sup>d</sup>

<sup>c</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

<sup>d</sup> Athenæ Oxon. i. 226.

## W E S T - C H I N N O C K .

**T**HIS parish and Middle-Chinnock are but one tithing; the churches are about half a mile distant from each other. There are fifty-two houses, and two hundred and seventy inhabitants. Most of the houses are small farms, and stand near the church. Five are in a hamlet called SNAIL-HILL.

The manor belonged in the time of Edw. III. to the family of Marshall, whereof Ralph Marshall held it at his death 20 Edw. III. leaving Herbert his son and heir. It afterwards passed in the same manner as Middle-Chinnock, and now belongs to the same lord.

The living is annexed to that of Chiffelborough. The church has nothing remarkable.



## CHISSELBOROUGH

**S**TANDS north from West-Chinnock, in a pleasant woody country, furrounded on all sides, except the west, by fine lofty and well cultivated hills, which rise very steep, and afford from their summits, rich and extensive prospects over the west and northwest parts of the country, the Bristol channel and coast of Wales. The village consists of a long straggling street near the church. A large fair is held here on the 29th of October for horses, cattle, and toys.

The Earl of Morton had also this manor, which is called in Domesday book *Ceolseberge*.

“ Alured holds CEOLSEBERGE. Two thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is five carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and two servants, and ten villanes, and twelve cottagers, with four ploughs. There is a mill of fifteen shillings rent, and thirty-eight acres of meadow, and three acres of coppice wood. It was worth sixty shillings, now one hundred shillings.”<sup>a</sup>

It was afterwards given to the Montacutes; from which family it came to that of Andham, or Aldham, by the marriage of Isabel, one of the daughters and coheirs of William de Montacute, with Thomas de Andham, 31 Henry III. This Thomas was succeeded by Baldwin de Andham, who died 19 Edw. I. leaving issue Francis de Andham. Francis died 1 Edw. III. leaving John, the son of John de St. Clare, his cousin and next heir.<sup>b</sup> This John de St. Clare died seized of the manor and advowson of the church of Chiffelborough, 10 Edw. III. and was succeeded by John his son and heir. To which John succeeded another John, who died 10 Ric. II. seized of the manor and advowson of the church, leaving Philip de St. Clare his son and heir,<sup>c</sup> who passed it to the Chidiok family; from whom it came to the Staffords of Hooke, one of whose heiresses, Eleanor, carried it into the family of Strangeways, of whom Giles Strangeways, esq; 5 Edw. VI. sold it to John Wadham, esq; and it is now by inheritance dividedly the property of the Earls of Ilchester and Egremont, and Col. William Wyndham; and one share belongs to the freeholders of the parish.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Ilchester, and in the presentation of the lords of the manor alternately; the Rev. Mr. Wightwick is the present incumbent.

The prior of Montacute received an annual pension of five pounds from this rectory, which was valued in 1292 at twenty marks.<sup>d</sup>

The church is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul: it consists of a nave and chancel, with an intermediate tower, containing four bells. The chancel has an inscription to the memory of the Rev. Nicholas Baker, rector of this parish, who died Jan. 8, 1747; and several of his family.

Mrs. Strangeways gave thirty pounds to this parish, the interest to be applied to the second poor for ever.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> Esc.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid.

<sup>d</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.



## H A S E L B O R O U G H.

THIS is a considerable parish two miles east from Crewkerne, in the turnpike-road to Yeovil, pleasantly situated in a fine inclosed fruitful country; the number of houses that compose it is one hundred and ten, ninety-five of which stand in two irregular streets, which meet at a right angle, forming an L, near half a mile in length, on the turnpike road. The rest stand a little northward of the church. The whole parish is rated at about 700l. a year, and is divided into about forty small farms. The river Parret runs through this parish under a stone bridge of one arch, dividing it from the parish of Crewkerne.

In this place, about the year of our Lord 1146, lived Wulfric, a celebrated saint, hermit, and prophet. He was born at Compton-Martin in this county, and applying himself to religious studies, became priest of Deverell, near Warminster in Wiltshire. Hence he removed to a small cell near the church of Haselborough, where, clad in iron raiment, he indulged the austerities of an eremitical life. In this retirement he was visited by some of the greatest personages, and amongst them by King Henry I. to whom he foretold his death, as he did to Stephen that he should sit upon the throne. He died in an advanced age, A. D. 1154, and was buried in his own cell by Robert bishop of Bath; but his body was afterwards removed to one side of the altar of the parish church of Haselborough. The monks of Montacute had petitioned his body for interment in their chapel, but Osbern, then officiating priest at Haselborough, opposed them, and his reliques were suffered to remain in a small aile or chapel adjoining to the chancel, and still called *Wulfric's Aile*, where his tomb was visited by pilgrims for many ages.\*

The possessor of the manor of Haselborough, at the time of the Conquest, was one Brisimar, a Saxon thane: the place was then called *Halberge*.

"Brisimar holds HALBERGE. He also held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for ten hides. The arable is eight carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and two servants, and eight villanes, and sixteen cottagers, with five ploughs. There is a mill of five shillings rent, and thirteen acres and a half of meadow, and half a mile of pasture in length and breadth, and as much wood. It is worth eight pounds."b

In St. Wulfric's days William Fitz-Walter was lord of this town, and here founded and endowed a monastery for regular canons, which was destroyed in the baronial contentions. To this William succeeded a second William, who assumed the name *de Haseberge* from this his place of residence.d 12 Henry II. in the aid levied for marrying the King's daughter, William, the son of William de Haseberge, accounted for three knights' fees of the old feoffment, or those which were held in the time of Henry the First, from which William Fitz-Terric owed him the service of two

\* Leland's Collectanea, II. 445.

b Lib. Domesday.

c Tanner's Notitia Monastica in Somersetshire.

d Cart. Antiq.

knights' fees.<sup>9</sup> He himself acknowledged the service of one fee for his demesnes at Haselborough, and had nothing to do with the new feoffment.<sup>1</sup> This William de Haselberge had for his successor another William, whose son, Richard de Haselberge, was the last of the name that enjoyed this manor; for having joined a mutinous society in arms against King John, his person and property were seized, and he was hanged at Sherborne.<sup>2</sup> The manor coming by these means into the King's hands, was granted to John Marshall, nephew to William Marshall earl of Pembroke, then keeper of the castle of Sherborne, where the said William de Haselberge was executed.<sup>3</sup> Which John Marshall was one of King John's favourites, and most steady adherents. Of him he obtained a variety of lands in different parts of England, and was successively appointed to the government of the several castles of Oswestry, Hawarden, Norwich, Oxford, Dorchester, Worcester, Devizes, and Sherborne. Besides which he held many other offices of importance; and to Henry III. was one of those who were deputed from the King, then lying ill at Marlborough in Wiltshire, to the great council held at Westminster, to forbid them to subject their lay-fees to the church of Rome.<sup>4</sup> He died 19 Henry III. leaving issue John his son and heir, who the same year had livery of all his lands in this county, Norfolk, and Southampton.<sup>5</sup> Which John died 27 Henry III. then seized of this manor, leaving William his son and heir.<sup>6</sup> William was a knight, and 45 Henry III. took part with Simon de Montfort earl of Leicester, and other rebellious barons, against the king,<sup>7</sup> who consequently deprived him of his estates, and this manor, being part thereof, was granted to Alan Plugenet,<sup>8</sup> descended from a family, who in the time of Henry II. were seated at Lamborne in the county of Berks. 49 Henry III. this Alan was, after the defeat of the barons at Evesham, constituted governor of Dunster-Castle in this county; and 14 Edw. I. he procured a charter for a weekly market to be held here on Mondays, and also for free warren in this and all his manors.<sup>9</sup> He died 27 Edw. I. leaving Alan his son and heir, who that year had livery of his lands. This Alan was made a knight 34 Edw. I. and attended that king in his expedition into Scotland. 5 Edw. II. he was summoned to parliament, and 9th of the same reign, for contumelious behaviour, incurred the sentence of excommunication from the bishop of Bath and Wells.<sup>10</sup> He died soon after without issue, leaving Joan de Bohun his sister heir to his estates. She also dying issueless, 1 Edw. III. Richard de la Bere, her cousin, succeeded to the inheritance. Which Richard died seized of this manor 19 Edw. III. leaving, by Clarice his wife, Thomas his son and heir. Which Thomas forfeited it to the crown, and it was thereupon granted to Ingelram de Ghisnes, sometimes called de Couci,<sup>11</sup> and again reverting in the time of Ric. II. it was bestowed on John de Holland, third son of Thomas earl of Kent, afterwards created Earl of Huntingdon.<sup>12</sup> The said Earl being attainted in parliament, his manors were confiscated to the King, but soon after restored, and Richard, son and heir of John earl of Huntingdon, died seized of this manor 4 Henry V.; the same year also John his son and heir was restored in blood, as heir to John his father

<sup>9</sup> Lib. Nig. Scac. i. 95.<sup>1</sup> Ibid.<sup>2</sup> Hutchins's Hist. of Dorset, i. 94. Esc. et Rot. Parl.<sup>3</sup> Cart. Antiq.<sup>4</sup> Dugd. Bar. i. 600.<sup>5</sup> Rot. Pip. 19 Hen. III.<sup>6</sup> Esc.<sup>7</sup> See the English Histories.<sup>8</sup> Cart. Antiq.<sup>9</sup> Cart. 14 Edw. I. n. 42.<sup>10</sup> Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.<sup>11</sup> Cart. 41 Edw. III.<sup>12</sup> Dugd. Bar. ii. 79.



Earl of Huntingdon; and 21 Henry VI. was by letters patent, bearing date at Windsor Jan. 6, advanced to the title of Duke of Exeter. He died seized of this manor 25 Henry VI. and was buried in St. Catherine's chapel near the tower of London. By Anne his first wife, daughter of Edmund earl of Stafford, he left issue Henry his son and heir, who succeeded to both title and estate. He married Anne, daughter of Richard duke of York, and sister to King Edw. IV. After the overthrow of the Lancastrian party, this Earl was attainted in parliament; and the crown becoming again possessed of this manor, granted the same in 1489, 4 Henry VII. to Thomas Stanley, first Earl of Derby, who died possessed of it in 1504. George, the eldest surviving son and heir of the said Earl, had summons to parliament by the title of Lord Strange, 22 Edw. IV. to the time of his death, Dec. 5, 1497, when he was succeeded by Thomas his eldest son, who in 1504 had livery of his father's lands, and in the same year succeeded his grandfather as second Earl of Derby. At his death in 1522, he was found seized of this manor, and those of West-Lydford and Blackdon, in which he was succeeded by Edward his son and heir. Henry earl of Derby held it 16 Eliz. but it passed afterwards into the family of Portman, and is now the property of Henry William Portman, esq.

The church of Haselborough is a prebend in the cathedral of Wells, and was valued in 1292 at fifteen marks.\* It is in the deanery of Ilchester. The Rev. Thomas England is the present vicar.

The church is dedicated to St. Michael, and consists of a nave, chancel, and north aisle, or chapel of St. Wulfric. At the west end is a plain tower with five bells.

Against the south wall of the chancel is an elegant monument of white and Sienna marble, inscribed as follows:—"In a vault underneath lies the body of William Hoskyns, late of this parish, gentleman, who died the 12th of October 1760, aged 52 years. Also the body of Joan Hoskyns, his wife, who died the 21st of May 1776, aged 62 years." Arms, Per pale *gules* and *azure*, a chevron engrailed *or*, between three lions rampant *argent*.

There are likewise two monuments: 1. To the memory of Christian, daughter of the Rev. Mountrich Hill, rector of West-Camel, who died Jan. 21, 1753, aged 31; and 2. To John Draper, who died Sept. 26, 1768, aged 94. Elizabeth his wife died Nov. 6, 1764, aged 89: and two of their children. Arms, *Gules*, three bends *or*, a chief per fesse, *ermine* and *argent*, in chief three mullets *sable*.

The christenings in this parish are on an average sixteen; the burials, fifteen.

\* Taxat. Spiritual.



## NORTON-UNDER-HAMDEN.

A Parish pleasantly situated under the north and northeast brow of Hamden and Chiffelborough hills; the former rising with a steep ascent behind it. This hill stands in the different parishes of Norton, Stoke, and Montacute,<sup>a</sup> distinguishing the two former by the addition of its name. “*Hamden Hille is a specula ther to vewe a great peace of the contrye therabout.*”<sup>b</sup> It has been noted for many ages for its quarries of fine stone, whereof there are four on it lying within the precincts of this parish. The surface of the hill, for about a foot in depth, is a light sandy soil, yielding a short sweet herbage for depasturing sheep. From thence to about the depth of sixteen or eighteen feet, is a loose small stone fit only for repairing roads. Six or eight feet lower is a stratum of good tile stone; and under that, for the depth of forty feet, are different strata of a fine hard stone, lying one on another, without any intervening earth. These strata are from one foot to three feet in thickness; the lower weighing a hundred and a quarter by the solid foot. The perpendicular fissures, or what the quarrymen call gullies, are from ten to thirty feet apart. Some quarries on the south-east side of the hill have, at the depth of about twenty feet below the surface, a stratum of yellow sand ochre of three feet thickness.

The soil of this parish is a deep and fruitful loam, and the country is well wooded and watered. A small river called *Credy*, rising near Misterton, runs under a stone bridge of two arches at the west end of this parish, dividing it from South-Petherton. The village consists of about fifty houses, besides which there is a hamlet called EASTERN END. Matthew Quantoc, esq; has a good house in this parish.

The manor of Norton belonged in the Conqueror's time to the Benedictine abbey of Grestein, in the diocese of Lisieux in Normandy, to which it was granted by Robert earl of Morton, and held under him when the Norman survey was drawn up.

“The church of St. Mary of Greistan holds of the Earl, NORTONE. A thane held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is five carucates. Thereof in demesne are two hides, and there is one carucate, and five servants, and eight villanes, and six cottagers, with three ploughs. There are two mills of twenty shillings rent, and twenty-five acres of meadow. Wood two furlongs long, and one furlong broad. It was and is worth one hundred shillings.”

After the second Earl of Morton's disgrace, it fell to the crown, and was granted to the family of Montacute, of whom John de Montacute, residing at the neighbouring mansion of Montacute, possessed it in the 13th year of King John.<sup>d</sup> It several other times lapsed, and was at length settled in the family of the Dukes of Suffolk, who enjoyed the same for several successive reigns, till by the attainder of Henry duke of Suffolk in 1553, it became forfeited, and thence passing through several unknown hands, is now the property of the Earl of Westmoreland, in right of his lady, the daughter of the late Robert Child, esq.

<sup>a</sup> See Montacute in Tintinhull Hundred. <sup>b</sup> *Lel. Itin.* vi. 64. <sup>c</sup> *Lib. Domesday.* <sup>d</sup> *Rot. Pip.* 13 Joh.



The abbey of Grestein had property in this parish in 1293, to the amount of 12l. 3s. 4d.<sup>e</sup> And the abbey of Glastonbury received from the manor a pension of forty shillings.<sup>f</sup>

The church was appropriated to the abbot and convent of Grestein, and valued in 1292 at twelve marks,<sup>g</sup> the said abbot and convent having therefrom a pension of three marks.<sup>h</sup> It is a rectory in the deanery of Ilchester, and in the gift of William Lock, esq. The Rev. Mr. Ford is the present incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, consists of a nave, chancel, and side ailes, with a tower at the west end, containing a clock and five bells.

There is in the chancel an old monument of stone inscribed to the memory of Anne Constantine, who died A. D. 1696. Another commemorates Anne the daughter of John Constantine, clerk, and Philippa his wife, who died July 7, 1713: as also the Rev. John Constantine, rector of this parish thirty-five years, who was a native of the county of York, and married one of the daughters of Matthew Quantoc, of this parish, esq.—He died Feb. 7, 1724, aged 63. Philippa his wife died May 30, 1741, aged 74.

The average christenings are annually ten; the burials seven.

<sup>e</sup> Taxat. Temporal.

<sup>f</sup> Regist. Abbat. Glaston.

<sup>g</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

<sup>h</sup> Ibid.

## N O R T H - P A R R E T,

SO called from its situation on that river, is a small parish on the borders of Dorsetshire, and about two miles southeast from Crewkerne in this county, consisting of eighty-three houses. It was anciently the estate of the Earl of Morton, and was written *Peret*.

“Bretel holds of the Earl, PERET. Algar held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for ten hides. The arable is eight carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and two servants, and eight villanes, and twelve cottagers, with three ploughs. There are two mills of fourteen shillings rent, and eighteen acres of meadow. Wood six furlongs long, and three furlongs broad. It was and is worth seven pounds.”<sup>a</sup>

15 Henry III. this manor belonged to Mabel Rivel, lady of Stoke and Swell in this county; from whose family it passed by the marriage of an heiress to that of L’Orti or de Urtiaco, whose residence was chiefly at Curry-Rivel, which manor they had by virtue of the same match.<sup>b</sup> Maud the wife of Sir John Lorti, knt. died seized of North-Parret, 7 Henry V. leaving Alice the wife of Walter Buckham her sister and heir.<sup>c</sup> Buckham did not hold it long; for in the next reign, it became the property of West

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> See vol. i. p. 26.

<sup>c</sup> Efc.

lord De la Warre. It went afterwards to the crown, and 15 Eliz. was granted to Thomas lord Wentworth. 24 Eliz. the manors of North-Parret, Chillington, and Southarp, were granted to the Earl of Hertford, and in his schedule this manor is set down at the yearly value of 32l. 8s.<sup>d</sup> It is now in the possession of William Pitt, of Dorsetshire, esq; who has it by inheritance.

The benefice was valued in 1292 at ten marks.<sup>e</sup> It is a rectory in the deanery of Ilchester, and in the patronage of the lord of the manor. The Rev. Dr. Taunton is the present incumbent.

The church, according to Ecton, is dedicated to St. Martin; it is built in the form of a cross, having in the centre a plain tower about fifty feet high, containing a clock, chimes, and five bells.

There is neither monument nor inscription in memory of the dead; but in the belfry we find the following curious old articles of bell-ringing, in Sternholdian metre:

“ He that in ringing takes delight,  
And to this place draws near,  
These articles set in his sight  
Must keep if he rings here.

The first he must observe with care:  
Who comes within the door,  
Must, if he chance to curse or swear,  
Pay six-pence to the poor.

And whosoever a noise does make,  
Or idle story tells,  
Must six-pence to the ringers take  
For mending of the bells.

Young men that come to see and try,  
And do not ringing use,  
Must six-pence give the company,  
And that shall them excuse.

He that his hat on's head does keep  
Within this sacred place,  
Must pay his six-pence ere he sleep,  
Or turn out with disgrace.

If any one with spurs to 's heels  
Rings here at any time,  
He must for breaking articles  
Pay six-pence for his crime.

If any overthrow a bell,  
As that by chance he may;  
Because he minds not ringing well,  
He must his six-pence pay.

Or if a noble-minded man  
Comes here to ring a bell,  
A tester is the sexton's fee,  
Who keeps the church so well.

Whoever breaks an article,  
Or duty does neglect;  
Must never meddle with a bell,  
The rope will him correct.”

The annual average christenings in this parish are twelve; the burials, nine.

Near the church is a handsome stone mansion, newly built, the seat of Thomas Hoskyns, esq; with a good garden, and neat plantations.

<sup>d</sup> MS. Valor.

<sup>e</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.





## B E R W I C K.

**T**HIS parish, which formerly gave name to a hundred, is situated two miles south-west from Yeovil, bounded on the north by Brimpton, on the west by East and West-Coker, and on the east and south by the county of Dorset. The country is very pleasant, being a mixture of gently-rising hills, and fine fruitful vales; the whole in large inclosures; and not encumbered with wood.

The village of Berwick is composed of nine houses, and the hamlet of STOFORD, a mile to the south, of thirty-two houses. The number of inhabitants amounts to about two hundred and forty. *Stoford* was a very considerable town in former times, and belonged to the lords of Berwick, by whom it was erected into a borough; but its privileges have long since been lost. Neither Berwick nor Stoford are mentioned in the Norman record; the ancient appellation of the former was *Berewyke*. The manor soon after the Conquest came into the possession of the family of Courteney, of whom was William de Courteney, the founder of the priory of Woodspring, A. D. 1210. In the 26 Henry III. the lands of Robert de Courteney, lord of this manor, were divided between Vitalis Engain and William de Cantilupe; and in that partition Berwick was allotted to the latter, who died seized thereof 35 Henry III. leaving William de Cantilupe his son and heir.<sup>a</sup> Which William had livery of his lands the same year; he married Eve, daughter and coheir of Walter Mareschal earl of Pembroke, by whom at his death 38 Henry III. he left issue one son, George, who died without issue, and two daughters, viz. Millicent, first the wife of John de Montalt, and afterwards of Ivo le Zouch; and Joan, married to Henry de Hastings.<sup>b</sup> 2 Edw. I. partition being made of the lands which he left at his decease, the manors of Berwick, Stoford, and Marston-Parva, with the borough of Stoford, were assigned to John de Hastings, son of Joan and Henry de Hastings.<sup>c</sup> This John de Hastings was in all the wars of Edw. I. and had summons to parliament as a baron of the realm. He married Isabel sister and coheir of Aymer de Valence earl of Pembroke, by whom he had issue three sons; John, who succeeded him; and William and Henry, who died without issue; as also three daughters, Joan, Elizabeth, and Margaret. He died 6 Edw. II. and Isabel his wife surviving him had this manor in dower. John his son and heir was in the Scottish wars, of the retinue of Aymer de Valence earl of Pembroke, and 16 Edw. II. was appointed governor of Kenilworth-castle in Warwickshire. He died 18 Edw. II. leaving issue by Julian his wife, daughter and heir of Thomas de Leyburne, Laurence his son and heir. Which Laurence, by reason of his descent from the coheir of Valence earl of Pembroke, was, by King Edw. III. in the 13th year of his reign, advanced to the dignity and title of that earldom.<sup>d</sup> He died in the 22d year of that reign, having married Agnes, daughter of Roger Mortimer earl of March; by whom he had issue John lord Hastings, who succeeded him in title and estate, and was made also knight of the garter. He married Anne daughter and heiress of Lord Manny, founder of the Charter-house in London; and died in France, as it was supposed, by poison,

<sup>a</sup> Esc.<sup>b</sup> Dugd. Bar. i. 732, 733.<sup>c</sup> Rot. Fin. 2 Ed. I.<sup>d</sup> Pat. 13 Ed. III. m. 12.

49 Edward III. leaving issue John earl of Pembroke, his son and heir. This last-mentioned Earl was in 1390, 13 Ric. II. unfortunately killed at a tournament held at Woodstock in Oxfordshire, being then seized of the manor of Berwick, with the advowson of the chantry there, and the borough of Stoford; as also the manors of Odcombe, Milverton, and Marston-parva, all in this county.<sup>e</sup> Upon his death, Reginald Grey, of Ruthen, was found to be his next heir, as lineally descended from Elizabeth, sister of John de Hastings, father of John, great-grandfather of the Earl last-mentioned. 21 Ric. II. Richard earl of Arundel held, as of the dowry of his wife Philippa, late widow of John de Hastings earl of Pembroke, this manor of Berwick,<sup>f</sup> in which parish 12 Henry IV. Elizabeth, the widow of John Holland earl of Kent, held two knights' fees, possessed afterwards by John Rogers.<sup>g</sup> Sir John Nevil and Sir Ralph Nevil were subsequently lords paramount of this manor. 20 Henry VI. John Rogers held at his death the manor and hundred of Berwick, with the advowson of the church, and the borough of Stoford, of John earl of Somerset; and left issue John Rogers his son and heir.<sup>h</sup> 26 Eliz. Andrew Rogers and Mary his wife, and John Rogers, gent. sold the manor, with the hundred, and advowson of the church of Berwick, and the borough of Stoford, to William Symes and his heirs, in which family it continued for several descents, and is now possessed by John Newman, esq; who has a good feat here, with a fine park and plantations.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Marston. The patronage belongs to the lord of the manor. The Rev. Mr. Warry is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, and is a very good neat building, consisting of a nave, chancel, and side ailes, with a tower on the north side thereof containing five bells. There is a handsome altar-piece of white stucco. At the west end of the north aile is a plain monument of white marble, inscribed,

“Heic subter sepultus jacet Thomas Symes, armiger, annos natus 46, a febris ereptus 22 die Novembris, anno Verbi Incarnati 1681, moestissimam reliquit viduam Merillam, filiam natu minorem Johannis Horner, de Mells, in agro Somersetensi, equitis aurati: per quam filium unicum Johannem, et unicam filiam habuit, quorum hæc infans 6<sup>o</sup> die Septembris 1671, occubuit, heic etiam sepulta: ille, una cum matre superstite monumentum hoc posuit; pientissima conjux, memoriam mariti sui pie colens, hunc etiam sui locum sepulchri statuens, cum Deo Opt. Max. visum fuerit.”  
Arms: *Azure*, three escallops in pale *or*, Symes: impaling, *sable*, three talbots passant *argent*, two and one, Horner.

<sup>e</sup> Esc.

<sup>f</sup> Ibid.

<sup>g</sup> Lib. Feod.

<sup>h</sup> Esc.





## CHILTON - CANTELO.

**T**HIS parish, although belonging to the hundred of Berwick, is situated in a nook between the hundreds of Somerton and Horethorn, at some distance from its proper hundred, whereunto it was added by the lords Cantilupe its owners, from whom it received its name.

This parish contains twenty-eight houses, and about one hundred and fifty inhabitants. Most of the houses form two straggling streets near the church; the situation is low and woody; but the lands are strong clay, very good, and worth on an average from thirty to fifty shillings an acre. A small stream, rising at Sandford-Orcas, runs under a stone bridge of one arch, and turns a grist-mill in this parish.

It is uncertain to whom the manor belonged at the Norman Conquest, there being several places of the same name entered in the survey, and not distinguished by situation or locality.

It was anciently held of the manor of Berwick by a younger branch of the family of Cantilupe, by the service of one knight's fee.<sup>a</sup> Richard de Cantilupe held it 1 Edw. I. John de Cantelo died seized of it 23 Edw. III. leaving two daughters his coheiresses, of whom Emma the wife of Walter Parker had this manor, and brought it to her said husband, who died seized of it 35 Edw. III.<sup>b</sup> In the time of Edw. IV. it was in the family of Wadham, and afterwards in that of Parham. 1 Mary, Richard Parham held a moiety of the manor from Sir John Rogers, knt. whence it came to the Strodes, of Parnham in the county of Dorset. After the death of Sir George Strobe, A. D. 1702, a partition was made of his estates between Francis lord Broke, and Frances countess of Hertford, in pursuance of a decree in chancery 16 April, 1729, wherein the manor of Chilton-Cantelo, rent 164l. 15s. was allotted by the act to the Countess of Hertford. It now belongs to J. Goodford, of Yeovil, esq; whose mother purchased it of the Earl of Northumberland, who had it by his lady, a daughter of the Earl of Hertford.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Marlton, valued in 1292 at fifteen marks.<sup>c</sup> The Rev. Mr. Hill is both patron and incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. James; it is built in the form of a cross, having at the west end a well-built tower of Hamdon-hill stone, seventy feet high, with three bells. In the south wall of the chancel are three tabernacles, and a niche for holy water.

At the north end of the transept is a stone with this inscription:—"Here lyeth the body of Theophilus Brome, of the Bromes, of the house of Woodlowes neere Warwick towne in the county of Warwick; who deceased the 18th of August 1670, aged 69. A man just in the actions of his life; true to his friends; forgave those that wronged him; and dyed in peace." Arms, *Sable*, on a chevron *argent* three sprigs of

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Feod.<sup>b</sup> Esc.<sup>c</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

Broom proper.—N. B. There is a tradition in this parish, that the person here interred requested that his head might be taken off before his burial, and be preserved at the farm-house near the church, where a head, chop-fallen enough, is still shewn, which the tenants of the house have often endeavoured to commit to the bowels of the earth, but have been as often deterred by horrid noises, portentive of sad displeasure; and about twenty years since (which perhaps was the last attempt) the sexton, in digging the place for the scull's repository, broke his spade in two pieces, and uttered a solemn asseveration never more to attempt an act so evidently repugnant to the quiet of Brome's head!

### EAST-COKER.

**T**HIS parish lies southward from Berwick, and comprises a village of its name, and a hamlet called NORTH-COKER, in which was formerly a chapel, lately taken down to make room for a workhouse since erected on its site.

This parish, although at a considerable distance from the old fosse road, abounds with vestiges of Roman antiquity. In the year 1753, in ditching in a field belonging to Mr. Forbès, (a great collector of curiosities) the foundations of a Roman dwelling-house were discovered, consisting of several rooms, one of which was floored with a most beautiful tessellated pavement, representing in strong colours a variety of figures, among which was a female lying on a couch in full proportion, with an hour-glass under her elbow, and a cornucopia in her hand; over her head a hare flying from a greyhound, just catching her in his mouth; and at her feet a bloodhound in pursuit of a doe just before him. Another female appeared dressed in her Roman stola with the purple laticlave; and a third, much damaged, helping to affix a robe round a naked person on a couch. Under this pavement was a hypocaust; and a great quantity of bricks, burnt bones, and corroded pieces of iron, were found in other apartments. Not a piece of this pavement is now left, the whole of the field wherein it was found having been ploughed up, and the antique fragments dispersed among curious visitors.

There are three places of the name of Coker, viz. East-Coker, West-Coker, and North-Coker, which are all described under one title in the Norman survey:

“ The King holds COCRE. Ghida [mother of Earl Harold] held it in the time of King Edward. There are fifteen hides, and it gelded for seven hides. The arable is fifteen carucates. Thereof are in demesne five hides and a half; and there are three carucates, and seven servants, and four coliberts, and thirty-five villanes, and forty-two cottagers, with twelve ploughs. There is a mill of five shillings rent, and one hundred acres of meadow. Pasture one mile long, and half a mile broad. Wood eight furlongs long, and six furlongs broad. It yields nineteen pounds and twelve-pence of white money.”

\* Lib. Domesday.

King



King William Rufus granted the manor of Coker to the abbey of St. Stephen at Caen in the province of Normandy, founded, A. D. 1064, by William duke of Normandy, who was buried there in 1093.<sup>b</sup>

This was only part of the great manor of Coker; the residue whereof belonged to the families of Courteney and Mandeville. 7 Joh. Robert de Mandeville held one knight's fee in East and West-Coker, with the hundred of Coker, of which this was the principal town.<sup>c</sup> 4 Edw. I. John de Mandeville was lord hereof, and after his death Clemence his wife held it in dower.<sup>d</sup> To him succeeded another John, whose son Robert de Mandeville was outlawed 34 Edw. I. and the manors of East and West-Coker were in the king's hands for a year and a day.<sup>e</sup> 9 Edw. III. Maud the wife of Sir William de Falconberge, knt. sister and heir of Robert de Mandeville, son and heir of Sir John de Mandeville, released to Hugh de Courteney, son of Hugh de Courteney earl of Devon, all her right in the manors of East-Coker, West-Coker, and in the hundred of Coker, in the county of Somerset. This deed of release was dated at Stoke-under-Hamden.<sup>f</sup> Elizabeth, the wife of the said Hugh Courteney, held the manor for life, and died seized of the same 49 Edw. III.<sup>g</sup> After her death it was inherited by Hugh Courteney earl of Devon, who died 51 Edw. III. leaving issue Edward his son and heir, Margaret his wife having East and West-Coker, with the hundred of Coker, the advowson of the church of West-Coker, and ten acres of meadow in *Buresmulle*, within the manor of West-Coker, in dower for life. She died 15 Ric. II.<sup>h</sup> The said Hugh de Courteney earl of Devon, her husband, founded, 18 Edw. III. a chantry at the altar before the high cross, in the church of St. Michael the Archangel, at East-Coker, for a chaplain to celebrate divine service every day for ever, for the good estate of him the said Hugh, Margaret his said wife, and William de Middleton, parson of the church of East-Coker; and gave four messuages, sixty acres of arable land, and ten acres of meadow, with appertenances, in East-Coker, North-Coker, and West-Coker, for the convenient and proper support thereof.<sup>i</sup> Sir Philip Courteney, knt. held at his death 7 Henry IV. the manor of East-Coker, and was succeeded by Richard Courteney, bishop of Norwich, his son and heir. This Richard died 3 Henry V. leaving Philip Courteney, son of Sir John Courteney, knt. his brother, heir to his estates. 7 Henry V. Edward Courteney held the manor and hundred of Coker, and after him Hugh his son and heir. 1 Henry VI. Hugh Courteney earl of Devon died seized of three knights' fees in East-Coker, North-Coker, and Hardington, which the heirs of John de Maundeville and John and Clement de Montalt formerly held in those places; as also the advowson of the church of West-Coker, worth per annum 20l.<sup>k</sup> 33 Eliz. William Courteney had licence to sell this manor to Bartholomew Trevilian.<sup>l</sup> It afterwards came into the family of Symes, and now belongs to William Hellyar, esq; in whose family it has been for some generations. The seat of Mr. Hellyar adjoins the church-yard, and is situated on an eminence which overlooks the town, and commands a fine prospect to the north and east.

<sup>b</sup> Account of the Alien Priories, i. 125, 127.    <sup>c</sup> Rot. Pip. 7 Joh.    <sup>d</sup> Efc. 4 Ed. I.    <sup>e</sup> Efc. 3 Ed. II.

<sup>f</sup> Sir William Pole's Book of ancient Evidences.    <sup>g</sup> Efc.    <sup>h</sup> Ibid.    <sup>i</sup> Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

<sup>k</sup> Efc.

<sup>l</sup> Licence to alienate.

The manor of NORTH-COKER belongs to the bishop of Exeter. In 1553 the chapel here, and lands belonging to the chantry in East-Coker, were granted to Edward Nevil and his heirs.

The benefice of East-Coker, valued in 1292 at twenty-four marks,<sup>m</sup> is an appropriation in the cathedral of Exeter. It is a vicarage in the deanery of Marlton. The Rev. Mr. Free is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Michael, and is a light handsome structure in the form of a cross, with a tower in the centre, containing a clock, chimes, and eight musical bells.

In the chancel by the side of the north wall, is the mutilated effigy in stone, of a female of the Courteney family, many of them having been interred within this church. There is also a stone to the memory of Robert Paul, minister of this parish, with the following curious inscription:

"Hic acquiescit corpus Domini Roberti Pauli, M. A. nuper hujus parochi. eccle. pastoris ornatissimi; obiit Aug. 22, An. Dom. 1673. Occidisti, possidisti; sed quid? corpus non animam: et veniet aliquando Christus cum potestate et majestate carnem illam quærere, et corpus istud cadaverosum consignare corpori claritatis suæ.

AN ACROSTICK.

R eader not weep, to hear the story  
O f his decease, was Coker's glory?  
Bemoan thyself, and know here lies  
E ntomb'd a treasure of great prize:  
R icher or more celestial dust  
T ime scarce hath left to earth in trust.  
P repar'd his sever'd soul is gon  
A lost, its GOD to wait upon,  
U pbraiding vice, it could not stay  
L onger below, so fled away." Abijt, non Obijt.

Robert }  
Paul } Anagr. { Apt  
          }                { Labourer.

Apt labourer, dear saint! all those that knew  
Thy works, can say, such labourers are few:  
Indeed there's none could yet out-labour all  
His fellow-workmen, save triumphant Paul  
Thy predecessor: yet thou wert, I know,  
So apt a labourer, that death to shew  
Thy worth, hence fetch'd thee upon angel's wings  
As an apt chaplain for the KING of Kings.

<sup>m</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.



Ah mihi! quid dicam? Paulum te flemus ademptum,  
In fausta est nobis mors tua fausta tibi:  
Dicam, Paule, vale: tua fama perennior ære  
Durabit, nullo stat moritura die.  
Et quod in æternum regem celebrabis Olympi  
Cokero nullus postea Paulus erit."

In the east window of the chancel are these arms; viz. 1. *Argent* on a bezant a cross tau *or*. 2. *Argent*, a cross *gules*. 3. *Azure*, a saltier *or*. 4. *Argent*, three escallops *or*.

In the north aisle is a very ancient tomb in a niche of the wall, but without any memorial. In the east wall of the same aisle is a benetoire for holy water; and in the north window these coats, 1. A chevron between three garbs *or*. 2. *Or*, three torteaux in pile surmounted by a label of three points *azure*, each charged with as many bezants. The arms of the Courtenays, and their intermarriages.

In the south window of the south aisle are the arms following, viz. 1. Quarterly, first and fourth, *or*, three torteaux in pile; second and third, *or*, a lion rampant *azure*. 2. *Azure*, a cross flory *or*, between four estoiles *gules*, impaling *argent*, on a bend *sable* three plates pierced. 3. *Gules*, a sword and key in saltire, *argent* and *or*. 4. Quarterly, first and fourth, *sable*, six martlets, 3, 2, 1, *argent*; second and third, *azure*, a bend *or*. 5. *Argent*, a saltire *gules*, impaling *argent*, three greyhounds statant *sable*.

Near the church is an alms-house, founded by an ancestor of the present lord of the manor, and endowed with an estate at Whitchurch in Dorsetshire, which furnishes two shillings a week to twelve poor widows.

At NORTH-COKER in this parish is an old mansion, in which are the following arms painted in the windows: 1. *Argent*, a chevron between three geese *sable*; impaling bendy, *argent* and *gules*, a martlet for distinction. 2. *Sable* on a bend *argent*, between six falcons, three Catherine wheels *or*.

Not far from hence stands another very large and ancient building called *Nash-house*.

A well-respected family of the name of Coker dwelt in former ages in this parish, and were beholden to it for their appellation. They bore for their arms, *Argent*, on a bend *gules*, three leopards' heads *or*, within a bordure engrailed *sable*. In the time of Henry I. Robert de Cocre was a witness to a charter of Robert de Mandeville, concerning lands in East-Coker. His son Matthias de Cocre was founder of a chantry at Wembdon in this county, 19 Edw. II. His son Richard de Cocre gave lands in Charlton to the priory of Brewton, and occurs 19 Edw. III. Matthias de Cocre his son held lands in Coker in the beginning of the reign of Henry IV. and by Margery his wife had issue John de Coker, who was of West-Coker. Bartholomew his son had a daughter, Elizabeth, who married John Seymour, of Wolf-hall in the county of Wilts, great grandfather to Edward Seymour duke of Somerset, which family still quarter the arms of Coker, but without the bordure. This lady was heiress to the elder branch of the Cokers. William de Coker, of Rolston and Bower in this county, occurs 49 Edw. III. and was brother of Matthias, the second of that name. He married

married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of John Norris, of Pentelyn in the county of Glamorgan, by whom he had Robert de Coker, of Bower, who married the daughter and heiress of John Wallys, of Worle in this county. He was sheriff of Somerset and Dorset 1 Henry VI. and was father of John, ancestor of the Cokers of Mapouder in the county of Dorset.\* Of this family also was the Rev. John Coker, the ingenious author in the last century of a Survey of Dorsetshire, published in 1732, fol.

\* Hutchins's Hist. of Dorset, ii. 263.

## W E S T - C O K E R

**L**IES to the northwest of East-Coker, and a little to the south of the turnpike-road leading from Crewkerne to Yeovil. This parish contains about one hundred houses, most of which compose two or three irregular streets about the church; the rest are in two hamlets, FONTENOY, half a mile southeast, and BRIDWELL, near East-Chinnock. This parish is rated at about one thousand pounds per annum.

Upon the grant of King William Rufus of part of his demesne lands in Coker to the abbey of St. Stephen, at Caen in Normandy, the abbot and convent thought fit to transmit hither a certain number of monks to superintend their estates. These in process of time established a cell here, and the convent enjoyed their property in this place till the dissolution of alien priories in the time of Henry V. when they were given to the priory of Montacute. The manor (formerly belonging to the Courtenays) is now possessed by Henry William Portman, esq.

The church, valued in 1292 at eighteen marks and a half,<sup>a</sup> is a rectory in the deanery of Marston, and gift of Thomas Proctor, of Pointingdon, esq. The Rev. Mr. Bishop is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Martin, is a neat edifice, consisting of a nave, chancel, and south aisle tiled. The tower is newly built, and holds six bells.

In the aisle, now used as a vestry-room, is a handsome mural monument of stone, having in a recess under an arched canopy the effigies of two ladies kneeling, and below this inscription:—"Grace, third daughter of Sir John Portman, knt. and baronet. Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Sir John Portman, knt. and baronet.

Grace crowns her youth, y<sup>e</sup> glads her parēts deare,  
Death strikes her heart, \* this strikes theirs also neare."

Arms: 1. *Or*, three fleurs-de-lis *vert*. 2. *Azure*, three taus *or*. 3. *Azure*, a chevron *argent*, between three gauntlets *or*. 4. *Argent*, a chevron, the upper part engrailed between three roses *gules*. 5. *Argent*, three étoiles *sable*. 6. *Argent* a chevron

<sup>a</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.



*ermine* between three moors' heads. 7. *Argent*, a bar *gules ermine* between three annulets of the first; impaling, *argent*, ten torteaux 4, 3, 2, 1. The same arms are on the front of the manor-house.

On the left hand of the communion table is a stone monument to the memory of John Perry, M. A. rector of this church, and Mary his wife; he died Feb. 25, 1727; she April 22, 1705.

Near the east window is a monument of white marble, inscribed,—"William Ruddock, of this parish, gentleman, departed this life Nov. 30, 1685; Edith, his wife, died Jan. 30, 1688; Deborah, their daughter, left this state of mortality Feb. 21, 1706: who all rest here in hope of a resurrection. This marble being inscribed to their pious memory by the executrix of the said Deborah, who by her will gave 100*l.* to purchase lands for the use of the poor in this parish." Arms: *Gules*, a bend lozengy *argent*.

On the north wall of the chancel is an elegant monument of different sorts of marble, containing this memorial:—"To the memory of Henry Moore, (and his ancestors) of this parish, gent. who died in the year 1679. Also Henry Moore, his son, who died the 17th of April 1743. Also Elizabeth, wife of the last-mentioned Henry Moore, who died the 22d of November 1755. Also the Rev. Thomas Moore, B. A. who died July 4, 1759. Also Henry Moore, who died Jan. 11, 1762. Also Jane, wife of the Rev. Charles Morgan, who died Sept. 24, 1769, whose remains lie interred in the chancel of the parish church of High-Ham in this county. Also John Moore, who died Nov. 21, 1769, (which said Thomas, Henry, Jane, and John, were the sons and daughters of the said Henry and Elizabeth Moore.) And also Henry Talbot Moore, son of the said John Moore, by Eleanor his wife, daughter of Henry Talbot, of Butleigh in this county, who died Feb. 4, 1777, aged 29.

———— "What though short thy date,  
Virtue, not rolling suns, the mind matures."

Arms: *Argent*, two bars engrailed between nine martlets *sable*.

On another handsome monument of white and grey marble on the same wall:—"Near this place lie the remains of Thomas, the eldest son of Thomas Proctor, esq; of Rock in the county of Northumberland. He married Mary, younger daughter of John Hall, of Pitcombe in the county of Somerset, esq; by Mary, sister of William Ruddock, esq. He died Sept. 5, 1748. And of John their son, who died July 20, 1752." Arms, *Argent*, a chevron *gules* between nine cross crolets *sable*. Over all an inescutcheon quarterly, first and fourth, *argent*, a chevron between three orles; second and third, *gules*, a bend raguly *argent*.

On the north wall of the nave is a white marble monument, with this inscription:—"Gulielmus Ruddock, hujus parochiæ armiger, fundator domus Eleemosynariæ in hac parochia, obiit decimo die Novembris, A.D. 1718. Quæ domus (immediatè post mortem fundatoris) erecta fuit per Johannem Hall, armigerum, executorem secundum effectum ultimæ voluntatis testatoris."

This almshouse was founded for the maintenance of five poor persons in the parish of West-Coker, by the said John Hall, in pursuance of the will of the said William Ruddock here interred, who laid a perpetual rent-charge of ten shillings a week upon all his estates for that purpose.

Mrs. Deborah Ruddock, by will dated 1706, left one hundred pounds to the poor of this parish, to be laid out in lands for their benefit.

Thomas Taylor, by will, dated 1677, left twenty pounds in money, the yearly interest to be paid by his executor to the poor of West-Coker.

A similar sum was left by Henry Moore in 1679, the interest to be paid in like manner at Christmas.

## C L O S W O R T H.

**T**HIS is a small parish, situated on rising ground in an inclosed and woody country, six miles south from Yeovil, and divided on the southeast from Dorsetshire by the river Ivel, which passing under Boarden-bridge, a mile eastward from the church, runs to Yeovil. The number of houses in the village is twenty, which are scattered about round the church. In the hamlet of NETHERTON, one mile north from the church, are ten houses; in that of WESTON, half a mile west, eight houses. The inhabitants are about two hundred.

This manor was one of the Earl of Morton's, at the time the following survey of it was drawn up:

“ The Earl himself holds CLOVEWRDE. A thane held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for seven hides. The arable is six carucates. In demesne are three carucates, and three servants, and ten villanes, and seven cottagers, with three ploughs. There is a mill of fifteen shillings rent, and twelve acres of meadow. Wood four furlongs long, and two furlongs broad. It was and is worth seven pounds.”

William the son of this Earl of Morton endowed his priory at Montacute with this among many other manors and estates, and the prior had a charter of free warren in all his lands here 37 Henry III.<sup>b</sup> It continued in the possession of the said priory till its dissolution, when it was granted to Sir Richard Morison, who sold it to Mary to Stephen Hales, who 3 Eliz. sold it to Henry Portman, esq; in which name and family it still continues, Henry William Portman, esq; being the present owner. The lands of the prior of Montacute in this parish were valued in 1293 at thirteen pounds.<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> Cart. 37 Hen. III. m. 8.

<sup>c</sup> Taxat. Temporal.



The church is a rectory in the deanery of Marston, valued in 1292 at ten marks.<sup>d</sup> It was appropriated to the priory of Montacute, and the patronage is now vested in the lord of the manor. The Rev. Mr. Bartlett is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to All-Saints, and consists of a nave, chancel, and tower containing five bells.

Against the north wall of the chancel stands a small monument of white marble, with this inscription:—"Underneath lie the remains of Elizabeth Knight, daughter of Mr. Ambrose Seward, of Yeovil, who died Oct. 23, 1730. Also the body of Thomas Knight, gent. who died May 20, 1748. This marble was erected, in the highest sense of duty and gratitude to the best of parents, by their eldest daughter Anne Knight, who desires to rest in the same grave, and to be made partaker with them of a joyful resurrection." Arms: Paly of eight, *Argent*, three pales *gules* on a canton *sable*, a spur *or*, Knight. Impaling, *Argent*, on a fesse *gules*, between two chevrons *ermine*, three roses of the first.

<sup>d</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

## H A R D I N G T O N

**I**S a parish lying southward from West-Coker, in a bleak and cold situation, containing seventy houses, and near four hundred inhabitants.

This manor was the demesne of King William the Conqueror, as we read in the general survey:

"The King holds HARDINTONE. Gunnild (sister of King Harold) held it in the time of King Edward, and there are ten hides, and gelded for five hides. The arable is ten carucates. Thereof in demesne are five hides and a half, and there are two carucates, and seven servants, and sixteen villanes, and sixteen cottagers, with eight ploughs. There are forty acres of meadow. Wood five furlongs long, and four furlongs broad. It yields twelve pounds and fourteen shillings of white silver."<sup>a</sup>

After the Conquest this manor was annexed to the barony of Marshwood in the county of Dorset, and held as parcel thereof by the noble family of Mandeville or de Magna Villa, who came over with King William,<sup>b</sup> and obtained large possessions in this country. Hence this place was named HARDINGTON-MANDEVILLE. In the aid levied for marrying the King's daughter, Gefferey de Mandeville certified that he held the manor of Herdinton, consisting of one knight's fee, of his Lord the King in Sumerfete.<sup>c</sup> To which Gefferey succeeded William, and to him Robert de Mandeville, whose son Robert paid ten marks 7 Joh. for his relief of this manor.<sup>d</sup> John de Mandeville occurs lord of this manor 4 Edw. I.<sup>e</sup> Robert his son 13 Edw. II. paid

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> Chron. Norman.

<sup>c</sup> Lib. Nig. Scac. i. 101.

<sup>d</sup> Rot. Pip. 7 Joh.

<sup>e</sup> Esc.

the sum of forty shillings for licence to enfeof Alexander, the son of Andrew Luttrell, with this manor.<sup>f</sup> Whence it passed to the families of Fauconbergh, Wadham, and Strangeways, and is now the property of the Earl of Ilchester.

The living of Hardington, valued in 1292 at twenty marks,<sup>g</sup> is a rectory in the deanery of Ilchester, and in the gift of William Hellyar, esq. The Rev. Mr. Daubeny is the present incumbent.

The church consists of a nave, chancel, north aisle, and tower at the west end, containing five bells.

At the east end of the chancel are two stone monuments, inscribed,—"Here resteth the body of Samuel Hood, M. A. rector of this church upwards of fifty-one years. He died April 10, 1728, ætat. 80."

[Then follows a long list of fourteen of his children, and the date of their deaths.]

"Here resteth the body of Elizabeth, the wife of Samuel Hood, rector of this church, and mother of these children, and four more, whom God preserve! She died March 30, 1718, ætat. 63."

Near the chancel door, on a brass plate, is a long bombastick and ridiculous inscription in Latin prose and English verse, commemorating a former rector of this parish of the name of Blagden, who died Jan. 13, 1675, aged 67.

In this parish are the remains of an ancient chapel of elegant workmanship, converted some time since into a weaving shop.

<sup>f</sup> Rot. Pip. 13 Ed. II.

<sup>g</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

## P E N D O M E R.

**T**HIS parish stands on the south side of Hardington, at the east end of a flat vale more than a mile in width, and skirted with high lands to the north and south. Hence its original name *Penne*, which signifies in old British a head or summit; and is particularly applied to elevated points of land. About half a mile eastward from the church, which stands on a fine eminence, is *Birt's-Hill*, or *Abbot's-Hill*, a large swelling knoll of high ground, the sides of which are finely striped with hanging woods. From the summit there is a very extensive prospect into both Somerset and Dorset.

This is ranked among the manors of the Earl of Morton, under the following description:

"Alured holds of the Earl, PENNE. Alwald held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is five carucates. In demesne are three

"carucates,



“ carucates, and two servants, and five villanes, and ten cottagers, with four ploughs.  
 “ There are ten acres of meadow, and four furlongs of pasture in length and breadth.  
 “ Wood seven furlongs long, and three furlongs broad. It was worth forty shillings,  
 “ now sixty shillings.”

Its principal lords after the Conquest were the family of Domer or Dummer, the effigy of one of whom lies in a Gothick niche under the north wall of the church, in armour, with his shield on his left arm, and his military belt and sword; his head bare, lying on his helmet. At his head and feet stand the effigies of his two sons, who support an arched canopy above. The manor now belongs to Earl Poulett, who has it by inheritance from many generations.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Ilchester, and in the patronage of the lord of the manor. The Rev. Mr. Webber is the present incumbent.

The church is a small Gothick building of one pace, with a turret, containing two bells, at the west end.

In the chancel window are these coats, 1. A cross *argent*. 2. A bend *or* between six plates. 3. The same as 2, with the addition of a mullet for distinction. 4. *Or*, on a chevron *argent* a mitre of the first.

Against the south wall of the chancel is a small monument, inscribed:—“ Near this place lieth the body of Thomas Taylor, 37 years rector of this parish. He died Dec. 12, 1720, aged 66.” Arms, 1. *Argent*, a bar counter-embattled between six fleurs-de-lis *sable*. 2. *Sable*, a lion passant *argent*. 3. *Argent*, three Catherine-wheels *gules*.

The font is circular, very large and clumsy. The christenings in this parish are five, the burials three, on an average annually.

• Lib. Domesday.

## SUTTON - BINGHAM

**I**S a small parish of very few houses, in a little valley, between two hills, on the south side of East-Coker. The lands are mostly arable, and produce some hemp and flax. The river Parret rises a little to the south, and turns a mill in this parish. This stream contains trout, eels, roach, and dace.

The manor of Sutton was given by the Conqueror to Roger Arundel:

“ Roger [Buissel] holds of Roger, SUTONE. Ulward held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is five carucates. There are six  
 “ bordars, and four cottagers, and a mill of sixteen shillings rent. There are twelve  
 “ acres

“ acres of meadow. Pasture three furlongs long, and two furlongs broad. It was  
 “ worth one hundred shillings, now thirty shillings.”<sup>a</sup>

This Roger Buissel was progenitor of the family of Bingham, who resided in this place, and gave it the addition of their name. Sir John de Bingham, knt. was living here in the time of Henry I. to whom lineally succeeded Silvester de Bingham, Gefferey de Bingham, Augustine de Bingham, William de Bingham, Ralph de Bingham, Sir Ralph de Bingham, knt. and Sir William de Bingham, who resided in this place in the time of Henry III. and left issue Margaret his daughter and heir, married to Ralph lord Bisset, in whose descendants the manor long continued.

Another branch of this ancient family, descended from Sir Ralph de Bingham, was seated at East-Melcombe in the county of Dorset; and bore for their arms, *Azure a bend cotised between six crosses formée or*. Another branch was seated in Warwickshire, and others in Kent, Herts, and Nottinghamshire; and divers descendants of the several families are still existing.

The manor of Sutton-Bingham is now in the possession of Wyndham Harbin, esq.

The living was valued in 1292 at seven marks;<sup>b</sup> it is a rectory in the deanery of Marston; and in the gift of Wyndham Harbin, esq. The Rev. Mr. Barjew is the present incumbent.

The church is a small building tiled, with two bells hanging in a hole of the wall at the west end. Between the chancel and the nave is a fine Saxon arch.

A flat stone has this inscription:—“ Here lyeth the body of Nicholas Stone, minister of Sutton-Bingham, who deceased June 3, 1674.” And over it on the wall, “ Here lyeth the body of Mrs. Joane Stone, a great example of all Christian virtues; who was buried Dec. 8, 1667.”

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.





THE HUNDRED  
OF  
H O R E T H O R N E.

**T**HIS hundred, situated in the southeast extremity of the county, on the borders of Dorsetshire, derived its name from a down in the vicinity of Milborne-Port, called *Horethorne-Down*, in regard of its once having a remarkable thorn, on the spot where in pristine times the hundred courts were held: which tree, being conspicuous to the surrounding country, was denominated by the Saxons *Deap-Down*, or the High Thorn. On this down, which is common land, and contains about two hundred and thirty acres, rise seven springs close together, and uniting their waters, form a rivulet, which passes through the parish of Pointington, and at Sherborne falls into the river Yeo.

The hundred and manor of Horethorne were anciently vested in the kings of England, and continued in their possession till the time of Edw. II. That king, by his charter, bearing date Sept. 16, the 7th year of his reign, granted the said manor and hundred to Robert Fitzpaine, lord of the manor of Kingsbury in the parish of Milborne, in exchange for that of Norton, which at the same time was restored to Walter, bishop of Coventry and Litchfield.<sup>a</sup>

In the time of Edward IV. the manor and hundred were held by Sir Thomas Stanley, knt. and Margaret his wife, countess of Richmond.<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Rot. Pip. 13 Ed. II. et ap. Cart. Antiq.

<sup>b</sup> Efc. 14 Ed. IV.



## M I L B O R N E - P O R T

**I**S a borough town, ten miles southeast from Ivelchester, and two miles east from Sherborne in Dorsetshire. The situation is very pleasant, being in a vale nearly surrounded with fine hills, and in a healthy soil. It consists of four streets; the principal one is called High-street, and is tolerably wide, but irregularly built. In this street is the guild-hall, an ancient building, having a door-case partly of Saxon and partly of Norman structure. In the middle of the town stands an old market-house, now converted into a warehouse, and the arches closed up. Here are considerable manufactures of woollen, linen, and hosiery, which employ most of the poor in this and the neighbouring parishes. The principal markets for the goods are London, Bristol, Bath, Salisbury, and Exeter.

This parish contains about four thousand acres of land, and feeds annually about two thousand five hundred sheep. The inclosed part is mostly arable, and produces good crops of all sorts of grain; the soil is a stone-rush. There is marle, and stone for rough building, and for repair of the roads; but it is of a soft kind, and quickly turns to dirt. It contains few (if any) fossils.

In the high street of the town is a well called *Town-Well*, which supplies most of the inhabitants with water. Another spring, called *Bath-Well*, rises behind the church. A third spring, rising at Bradley-head, forms a brook, which turns a corn-mill in the hamlet of MILBORNE-WICK.

From the circumstance of these springs and rivulets, and from there having been formerly in this parish more mills than in most other parishes of the county, the Saxons gave this place the name of *Wyllburn*, which is compounded of *Wyll*, or *Wýlen*, a mill, and *Burn*, a torrent; and from the circumstance of its being a borough and market-town, the most considerable in these parts, it obtained the additional name of *Port*, signifying a town or incorporated vill, by which it is distinguished to this day. Its importance in early ages may be collected from the following record:

“ The King holds MELEBURNE. King Edward held it. It never paid geld, nor is it known how many hides there are. The arable is fifty carucates. In demesne are four carucates, and five servants, and seventy villanes, and eighteen cottagers, with sixty-five ploughs. There are six mills paying seventy-seven shillings and sixpence; and one hundred and seventy acres of meadow. Wood two miles in length, and nine furlongs in breadth. Pasture four furlongs long, and two furlongs broad, and one mile of moor.

“ In this manor are fifty-six burgeses, and a market paying sixty shillings.

“ The whole of MELEBURNE, with its aforefaid appendages, pays fourscore pounds of white money, wanting nine shillings and five pence. In the time of King Edward it was accountable for half a night's entertainment for the King, and one fourth.

“ Reinbald



“ Reinbald holds the church with one hide. He has there one plough. It is worth  
“ thirty shillings.<sup>a</sup>

“ Of the third penny [of the county] MELEBURNE pays twenty shillings.<sup>b</sup>

“ Warmund holds of the Earl [of Morton] in MELEBURNE one hide. The arable  
“ is one carucate, which is in demesne, with two cottagers, and two servants, and eleven  
“ acres of meadow there, and a mill rendering sixteen pence, and five burgesses pay  
“ three shillings. The whole is worth twenty shillings.<sup>c</sup>

Not long after the Conquest this town seems to have lost a great deal of its former consequence, but still retained its market, and its privilege as a borough; returning burgesses 26, 28, 33, and 35 Edw. I. after which it ceased to be represented in parliament till 15 Car. I. when it was restored to that franchise, and was summoned by the House of Commons to return members. The borough is governed by the owners of nine bailiwicks, who are the lords thereof, hold a court-leet, and are assisted by two deputy bailiffs, two constables, an ale-taster, a searcher and sealer of leather, besides the parish officers. There is also within the borough a corporate body of nine persons, consisting of two stewards and seven assistants. In this body several parcels of lands are vested, the rents and profits of which are appropriated to the second poor of the borough.

The arms of the borough are, a lion passant gardant with the letter R in base.

The manor of KINGSBURY-REGIS, a tithing in this parish, belongs to the Earl of Uxbridge. 2 Edw. I. John de Burgh gave this manor to the King, whence it received its additional title.<sup>d</sup>

King Henry I. in the thirty-fourth year of his reign, granted to the abbey of Cirencester in Gloucestershire certain of his demesne lands lying within the parish of Milborne-Port, together with the rectory of Milborne-Port, and the advowson of the vicarage of the same;<sup>e</sup> all which lands and premises were held by the said abbey till its dissolution, and were then granted to Wykeham College in Winchester, to which they now belong.

The abbot of Cirencester had an annual pension of two marks out of the rectory. Bishop Savaricus wished to have made the rectory a prebend in the cathedral of Wells, to be enjoyed by the abbot of that convent and his successors for ever; but his proposal, which was made about the year 1198, was not acceded to.<sup>f</sup>

The fellows of Winchester College are the patrons of the vicarage. The Rev. George Isaac Huntingford is the present incumbent. In 1292, the rectory was rated at twenty-five marks, and the vicarage at eight, out of which a pension of two marks was paid to the rector.<sup>g</sup>

The church is dedicated to St. John the Evangelist. It is an ancient structure in the form of a cross, over which is a large quadrangular tower, supported by two pointed, and two semicircular arches, and containing six bells.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid.

<sup>d</sup> Pat. 2 Edw. I. m. 24.

<sup>e</sup> Cart. Antiq.

<sup>f</sup> Archer's Account of Religious Houses.

<sup>g</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

Against the east wall of the north aisle is a neat monument of white marble, inscribed,

“ In a vault underneath is deposited the body of Thomas Medlycott, of Abingdon in the county of Berks, esq; justice of the peace, and deputy-lieutenant of the said county, who departed this life Dec. 13, 1716, aged 88 years, 9 months, and 15 days.

“ In the same vault is also deposited the body of James Medlycott, esq; son and heir of the said Thomas Medlycott, and in several parliaments one of the representatives of this borough, who died May 2, 1731, aged 73. Here also lyeth the body of James Medlycott, gent. second son of the said James Medlycott, who died Feb. 14, 1729, aged 26.” Arms, Quarterly, *gules* and *azure*, per fesse indented, three lions rampant *argent*.

On the north wall of the same aisle:—“ This sacred marble is erected in memory of George Medlycott, gent. first lieutenant in Colonel Moreton's regiment of marines, who died in the West-Indies, and the debt he owed to nature paid his country.

“ Near this place lyeth the body of Thomas Medlycott, gent. only son of Thomas Medlycott, of Venn<sup>h</sup> in the county of Somerset, esq; who departed this life June 13, 1741, in the 10th year of his age.”

The fingers' gallery was erected by Sir Thomas Travell, knt. and James Medlycott, esq; in the year 1712.

In the chancel floor is a stone with this inscription:—“ Here lieth the body of the Rev. Mr. John Hall, vicar of this place, who died Feb. 25, 1765, aged 45 years.”

Against the south wall of the chancel is a stone monument, inscribed,

“ Near this place lyeth the body of John Noake, who dyed Feb. 19, 1701, aged 71. And also Elizabeth his wife, who dyed July 16, 1708, aged 87. She was the mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother of 66 children.

“ Here likewise are interred John Noake, grandson of the abovementioned, and Mary Noake, his wife, with four of their children, who all died young. John Noake died Jan. 23, 1737, aged 51 years. Mary Noake died April 18, 1727, aged 39 years.”

Above this, on a square tablet of white marble:—“ Near this place lies the body of Elizabeth Noake, who died Aug. 4, 1775, aged 54. Also the body of Catharine Noake, who died the 1st of November 1776, aged 50 years.”

On a large old tomb in the church-yard:—“ Here resteth the body of Thomas Prankerd, bachelor, interred the 3d of Januarie 1609, which gave by his will to the people of M. P. 40 pouds to be and remaine to them for ever: And I will and appoynt and by thes pñtes doe ordaine and make my kinsmen Robert, Thomas, John, and William Prankerds, joynte overseers to rule and govern the stock to the poore; and the-profit quarterly to be distributed to the said poore.

“ Here also resteth the body of James Prankerd, bachelor, who dyed the 21st of January 1699, aged 35 years; who was the son of Edward Prankerd, who dyed the

<sup>h</sup> Venn lies north from Milborne-Port, and is the manor and seat of the present T. H. Medlycott, esq.



29th of April 1692, aged 74 years:—And the said James Pranker, to his everlasting remembrance, gave unto the poor of Milbourn-Port the interest of 60 pounds, to be paid unto them in Christmas week yearly for ever; at the discretion of Edward, John, and Thomas, brothers of the said James Pranker, and Edward Pranker their kinsman, in whose hands the said 60 pounds are to remaine so long as they shall live; and when it shall please God that either of them shall dye, the survivers of him so dying shall proceed to chuse another of the said name in his stead, as further appears in — Pranker's will.

On another tomb:—"Here lyes the body of Joseph Lewyes, who dyed March 22, 1767, aged 81 years; who gave fifteen pounds to the poor of this town."

In the garden of Mr. Noake, adjoining the church-yard, on opening the ground some years since for the foundation of a building, near sixty bodies were found, lying twenty in a row, with their heads to the north. In one of the rows were men, women, and children. No remains of any coffins were found; and it is supposed they were buried here in the time of the great plague, when (as tradition says) 1500 died here within one year.

When Cromwell's soldiers were in this town they robbed the church of the bible; but in their return were attacked by the town's people, who, armed with quarter-staffs, rescued the bible, and put the Oliverians to flight.

Milborne-Port gave name to an eminent family. Sir William de Milborn was living in the time of Edw. III. Sir John de Milborn in 1413, 2 Hen. V. and Ralph de Milborn was steward of the monastery of Glastonbury. Their descendants were seated at Monastow in the county of Monmouth.

King Richard II. granted this place a charter for holding a two-days fair annually; and a confirmation of its weekly market. A second fair is held by prescription, as it is supposed, no grant of a charter being to be found. The fairs are, June 5, and Oct. 28.

## CHARLETON-HORETHORNE, or CHARLETON-CAMVILLE;

The former, from its situation; the latter, from its old possessors;\*

**I**S a parish north of Milborne-Port, in the turnpike-road between Wincanton and Sherborne, pleasantly situated in a rich vale, inclosed and well cultivated.

It belonged at the Conquest to Robert Fitz-Gerold, a Norman:

"Robert the son of Girold holds of the King, CERLETONE, and Godzeline of him.  
"Godman held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable

\* In some old writings it is called South-Charlton, and Charlton-under-Horethorne.

“ is twelve carucates. In demesne are three carucates, and seven servants, and four villanes, and fifteen bordars, and three cottagers, with eight ploughs. There is a mill of five shillings rent, and fifty acres of meadow. Pasture four furlongs long, and three furlongs broad. Wood half a mile long, and as much broad. It was worth ten pounds, now six pounds.”<sup>b</sup>

Soon after this general survey, this manor was in the possession of the family of Camville, or Canvill, or de Campvilla, of whom, in the 5th year of the reign of King Stephen, Gerard de Camville gave two parts of the tithe of this parish to the Cluniac abbey of Bermondsey in Surrey.<sup>c</sup>

To this Gerard succeeded Richard de Camville, who was the founder of the abbey of Combe in Warwickshire, and 12 Steph. was witness to the agreement between that King and the Duke of Normandy, touching the succession of the crown. This Richard, for the sake of his own soul, and the souls of his ancestors and successors, granted in perpetual alms to the church of St. Mary of Kenilworth in the county of Warwick, the church of St. Peter of Cherleton within that his manor, with all lands and tithes, meadows and pastures, and all liberties and other appertenances. To this charter many of the family were witnesses, and therefore the deed itself is subjoined.<sup>d</sup> He died at the siege of Acon, in which expedition he had attended King Richard I.

Gerard de Camville, his son, succeeded him. He married Nicola, daughter and coheir of Richard De la Hay, by which, and his other connections, he became possessed of a large extent of property in this and other counties. But for some disloyal practices his possessions were seized by the crown, and himself adjudged to be banished the kingdom. However, upon intercession, and the payment of two thousand marks, he was reinstated in his lands, and restored to favour.

Richard, his son and heir, married Eustachia, daughter and heir of Gilbert Bassët, reliëf of Thomas de Verdon. 16 Joh. he had livery of part, and 2 Hen. III. of all his paternal inheritance. He left issue by his said wife one sole daughter and heir, named *Idonea*, who was married to William de Longespee, son of the Earl of Salisbury, who 10 Henry III. after the death of the said Richard, had livery of his lands, as he had 15 Henry III. of all those lands which had been held of the honour of Camel in

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>c</sup> Cart. 5 Steph.

<sup>d</sup> ROBERTO, Dei Gratia, Bathoniensi Episcopo, et Roberto Archidiacono, et universo Bathoniensis Ecclesiæ Capitulo, Ricardus de Campvilla in Domino Salutem. Sciant omnes presentes et poster, quod ego Ricardus de Campvilla, pro salute animæ meæ, et meorum prædecessorum, et successorum, concessi, et in perpetuam elemosinam donavi, ecclesiæ Sanctæ Mariæ de Keningwrda, et canonicis ibidem Deo servantibus, ecclesiam Sancti Petri de Cherletona, in manerio meo in Sumerfeta; cum terris et decimis, et omnibus ad eandem ecclesiam pertinentibus; salvo jure monachorum et monasterii de Bermundeseia, ad quorum jus antiquum pertinent duæ partes decimationis, tam de agricultura, quam de nutrimentis animalium de dominio meo: Quare volo, et firmiter statuo, ut prædicti Canonici prænominatam ecclesiam de Cherleton habeant, et teneant bene, et in pace, et honorifice, solutam et liberam, et quietam ab omni servitio et exactione seculari, sicut supradictum est, cum terris et decimis, pratis et pascuis, et omnibus pertinentiis et libertatibus suis; et ut nullus heredum, vel hominum meorum, huic meæ donationi contrarie, vel eam in aliquo temere perturbare præsumat. Hiis testibus, Gerardo de Campvilla, Hugone de Campvilla, Willielmo de Campvilla, Ricardo de Campvilla, Millisenta Marmiun, Waltero de Campo Avene, Philippo de Sancto Liger, Ranulpho de Chent, Humfredo Clerico, Ricardo Clerico.”



this place and Henstridge by Nicola De la Hay, and by hereditary right belonged to the said Idonea.

Which William de Longespee was the son of the celebrated Ela countess of Salisbury, who executed the office of sheriff for the county of Wilts for several successive reigns, being the only female to whom such a publick and very active charge was ever before committed.

This William de Longespee was slain abroad by the Saracens, A. D. 1250, and was succeeded by his son and heir William de Longespee, who 36 Henry III. did homage and had livery of his lands. He married Maud, the daughter of Sir Walter Clifford, knt. with whom he had in marriage a portion of twenty-eight pounds eight shillings, and two-pence per annum; a sum considered large enough in those days of moderation. He died 41 Henry III. leaving issue by the said Maud several children, whereof Margaret inherited the estate.

Which Margaret was married to Henry, son of Edmund de Lacy earl of Lincoln; who 22 Edw. I. procured a charter for a weekly market to be held on this his manor, and a fair yearly on the eve and day of St. Thomas the martyr.<sup>1</sup> He died 4 Edw. II. leaving Alice his daughter and heir, the wife of Thomas earl of Lancaster, son and heir of Edmund earl of Lancaster, brother to King Edward I.

Of which Alice it is reported,<sup>2</sup> that on the Monday before Ascension-day, A. D. 1317, being at Great-Canford in the county of Dorset, she was violently seized by a certain knight of the family of John earl of Warren, and carried away, in sight and despite of her husband, towards the Earl's house at Ryegate in Surrey; but her conductors seeing in their passage in the road betwixt Holton and Farnham certain streamers and banners through a hedge, which they thought belonged to people who had been sent to rescue her, but which really belonged to some priests going in procession; they fled, and left her all alone; but when they found their mistake, they quickly returned, and brought with them a person of a very low stature, lame, and hunch-backed, called Richard de St. Martin, who challenged her for his wife, and afterwards persisting in his insolence, laid claim to the earldoms of Lincoln and Salisbury in her right.

It was not allowed; and she, surviving her husband the Earl of Lancaster, granted the reversion of this manor to the crown, after the death of John earl of Warren. She married to her second husband Eubulo le Strange, and died 22 Edw. III.

The manor of Charleton being thus in the hands of the crown, the reversion thereof was granted by King Edward III. to William de Montacute earl of Salisbury, whose son William died seized of it 20 Ric. II. Elizabeth the wife of the said William had it in dower, and held it till 2 Henry V. when again escheating, it was granted by that King to his brother John duke of Bedford, who died seized of it 14 Henry VI.

In an old writing<sup>3</sup> are the following documents relating to the early state of this manor:

<sup>1</sup> Cart. 22 Ed. I.

<sup>2</sup> Tho. Walsingham. Hist. p. 85.

<sup>3</sup> Rawlinson's Book of Inquisitions, MS. in the Harleian Library.

"To the manor of Charlton-Horthorne belong Horfington, Cheriton, and some land in Wyncaulton, and a meadow in Stowell. This Charlton with the appertanances was purchased of one Nicholas Edmond, lord thereof."

"Sciant, &c. quod ego Ricūs de Camvile, assensu &c. Girardi Patris mei dedi, et concessi Roberto filio Mychel & hæredibus suis 2 car. & dimid. terr. in maner. de Cherlton cum omnibus pertiñ. suis, & pro hac donatione præd. Robertus dedit 60 marcas argenti." No date.

"Anno 7<sup>o</sup> Hen. III. Ricardus de Camvile p finem levat. concedit cuidam Willō Longespee, & Idoneæ uxori ejus quandam partem manerii de Charlton & hæredibus suis, &c. Ista fuit filia & hæres dicti Ricardi. Iste Willūs habuit exitum Ricardum Longespee Dñum de Charlton-Camvile."

The arms of Camville were differently borne; as, an eagle displayed, and three lions passant.<sup>m</sup>

The manor is now the property of the Earl of Uxbridge.

The living is a vicarage in the deanery of Marston. The rectory was rated in 1292 at twenty-five marks, and the vicarage at nine.\* The canons of Kenilworth had six marks out of it annually. The Rev. Mr. Peddle is the present incumbent.

There was a chantry chapel within the manor, wherein the prior of Kenilworth found a chaplain to officiate three days in the week.\*

The church is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, consisling of a nave, chancel, side ailes, and a tower at the west end containing four bells. There are four steps from each door down into the church.

At the east end of the south aile is a mural monument of marble, inscribed:

"Near this place lyeth the body of John Wright, esq; second son of Sir Nathan Wright, of Cranham-Hall in the county of Essex, bart. who departed this life March 27, 1726, aged 36.—As a lasting testimony of his affection to this parish, he gave to the vicar for the time being, and for ever, the yearly sum of 40s. for a sermon to be preached in this church on the 27th of March annually. To the Clerk 20s. for tolling the great bell, and attendance on that occasion; and to such poor people as have no relief, five pounds, to be equally distributed among them." Arms: *Azure* two bars *argent*, in chief three leopards' heads *or*. Crest, out of a ducal coronet *or* a dragon's head proper.

The average christenings in this parish are thirteen; the burials nine, annually.

<sup>m</sup> Seals from ancient deeds.

\* Taxat. Spiritual.

\* Etc.





ABBOTS-COMBE, otherwise ABBAS-COMBE,

**I**S a parish situated in the eastern part of the hundred, on the river Cale, five miles south from Wincanton. It had its name from the combe or valley in which it lies, and its additional name from its having formerly belonged to the abbey of Shaftsbury in Dorsetshire. It is also sometimes called *Combe-Porter*.

“ The church of St. Edward holds **CUMBE**. In the time of King Edward it gelded “ for five hides. The arable is five carucates. Thereof in demesne are two hides and “ a half, and there are two carucates, and four villanes, and seven cottagers, with two “ ploughs. In Meleburne six burgessees pay fifty pence. Meadow four furlongs long, “ and two furlongs broad. Wood three furlongs long, and two furlongs broad. “ Pasture two furlongs long, and one furlong broad. It was and is worth six pounds.”

In 1293 the temporalities of the abbey of Shaftsbury in this parish were valued at ten pounds,<sup>b</sup> and the abbess received a pension of fifteen marks out of the manor.

After the dissolution of that monastery the manor of Abbots-Combe, with the advowson of the church, was granted by King Henry VIII. in the 34th year of his reign to William Sherrington. In Queen Elizabeth's time Richard Duke, esq; was owner of the same manor and advowson, and dying left one sole daughter and heir, Christiana, married to George Sprint, who in her right held the same by knight's service.<sup>c</sup> The manor now belongs to the Earl of Uxbridge.

Adjoining to Abbots-Combe is a hamlet called **TEMPLE-COMBE**, from the circumstance of its having been possessed by the fraternity of knights-templars, to whom about the year 1185 the whole village was given by Serlo Fitz-Odo. In consequence of this donation, the place became a preceptory or commandery of that order. But after the suppression of the templars, the knights of St. John of Jerusalem, or hospitalers, became possessed of their lands. These were also suppressed by parliament, A. D. 1540, and this manor of Temple-Combe, with the site of the preceptory, was granted 34 Henry VIII. to Richard Andrewes and Leonard Chamberlain. The year following the manor was granted to Lord Clinton. 15 Eliz. it belonged to Richard Duke before-mentioned. In the beginning of this century it was the seat of Sir William Wogan.

The revenues of the free chapel of Temple-Combe, (the buildings whereof have long since been in ruins) were valued 26 Henry VIII. 1534, at 107l. 16s. 11d.

The church of Abbots-Combe is rectorial, in the deanery of Marlton, and was valued in 1292 at fourteen marks.<sup>d</sup> The Rev. Mr. Bishop is the present incumbent.

The building is small, and consists of a nave, chancel, small south aisle, and porch tiled. On the south side is an embattled tower, with a clock and five bells.

The christenings here are eleven; the burials fourteen, annually.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domcday.

<sup>b</sup> Taxat. Temporal.

<sup>c</sup> Ter. Sydenham.

<sup>d</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

## N O R T H - C H E R I T O N

**L**IES in the north part of the hundred towards Wincanton, and includes the hamlet of LOTTERFORD, or Loderford. Cheriton is recorded in the Norman survey, as follows:

“ Bernard holds of William Fitz-Wido, **CHERINTONE**. Alwold held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for six hides. The arable is six carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and six servants, and five villanes, and four bordars, and two cottagers, with three ploughs. There are one hundred and twenty-five acres of meadow. Pasture five furlongs long, and three furlongs broad. Wood seven furlongs long, and as many broad. When he received it, it was worth one hundred shillings, now six pounds.

“ Of this same land Alwold bought five hides of the abbot of Cernel for his life only, and after his death the land is to return to the church.”<sup>a</sup>

In process of time this manor became annexed to that of Charlton-Camville; but in the time of Edw. II. was part of the barony of Nicholas de Moels, and held of him by Gefferey de Freethorn.<sup>b</sup> 20 Edw. III. John de Handlo lord Burnell died seized of two parts of this manor, and the advowson of the church, which he held in right of Maud his wife, the widow of John Lovel,<sup>c</sup> and in the same year two other parts were held by the family of Dannay.<sup>d</sup> The whole was afterwards in the sole possession of the family of Lovel, lords of Sparkford and Upton-Noble, from whom it passed to the Rogers<sup>e</sup> and the Gorges. Richard Gorge died seized of it 20 Edw. IV. leaving Marmaduke Gorge his son and heir.<sup>e</sup> Richard Gorge, a descendant of this Marmaduke died 3 Henry VIII. seized of this manor and that of Horsington; by Maud his wife (who was afterwards married to Henry Roos) he had issue Marmaduke who died in his father's life time, but was married, and left issue two daughters coheiresses, Elizabeth, the wife of Thomas Shirley, and Maud. Francis Shirley, 1 Eliz. sold all his property in North and South-Cheriton, and Horsington, to Edward Ludlow, from whom it passed to the families of Leveson, Fitz-James, and Goldinge; and the manor is now the property of the Rev. Thomas Watson, M. A. who is also patron of the living.

The living is rectorial; it lies in the deanery of Marston, and was valued in 1292 at six marks and a half.<sup>f</sup>

The church is dedicated to St. John Baptist. It is a small structure of one pace, with a tower at the west end containing four bells.

On the floor is this inscription:—“ The burying-place of Thomas Watson, esq.”

Against the north wall:—“ Thomas Abbot, gentleman, gave the two higher west fields, lying and being in the parish of North-Cheriton, containing seven acres or thereabouts, towards the second poor for ever.”

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Feod.

<sup>c</sup> *Etc.*

<sup>d</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>e</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>f</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.



## C O R T O N - D I N H A M

**I**S the next parish to Charleton-Horethorne westward, very pleasantly and picturesquely situated in a valley under a ridge of high hills, extending in a curve to the east and south, and commanding from one part an extensive prospect of all the middle part of the county, quite down to the channel. Here is a large tree called *Corton-Ash*, which is a sea-mark; and near it once stood a beacon.

In the year 1772, as some labourers were digging in the common field, in order to make an inclosure, they found an urn, which contained about two quarts of Roman coins, chiefly of Valerian, Gallienus, Aurelian, Tacitus, Florianus, and Probus: most of them were fair and plain, and deposited in the hands of the Rev. Thomas Nash, rector of the parish.\*

The Romans were therefore acquainted with the place; but the earliest account we have of it does not much antecede the Norman Conquest, when it was held by King William in demesne.

“The King holds CORFETONE. In the time of King Edward it gelded for seven hides; the arable is seven carucates, of which in demesne are three hides and a half, and one ferding, [ten acres,] and there is one carucate, and three servants, and ten villanes, and eight cottagers, with three ploughs. There are six acres of meadow. Wood two furlongs long, and one furlong broad. It was and is worth seven pounds.”<sup>b</sup>

The manor obtained its additional title from the family of Dinham, its future owners. Oliver de Dinant came into this country with the Conqueror, out of Brittany in France, where, at a place called *Dinant*, was the baronial castle of this ancient house.<sup>c</sup>

It does not appear when they became possessed of Corton; but we find that in the sixth year of King John, Hawise de Dynant, and Sibyl her sister, gave to the King a horse of price, for having a precept against Oliver de Dinant, returnable before the King in 3 septiman. Michael. for the manors of Corton and Buckland (afterwards called Buckland-Dinham) both in this county, and Hartland in the county of Devon.<sup>d</sup> 15 Joh. the said Oliver de Dinant gave a fine of threescore marks for livery of his lordship of Buckland.<sup>e</sup>

Gefferey Dinant, son of Oliver, inherited the manors of Corton and Buckland; and for the latter 24 Henry III. obtained a charter for a market on Tuesday, and a fair yearly for three days, viz. on the eve, day, and morrow of the festival of St. Michael.<sup>f</sup>

\* Stuk. Itin. Curios. i. 149. This Mr. Nash was rector of Nether-Compton in Dorsetshire, and subdean of Sarum for sixty years. He was tutor to Mr. Addison, and published some very elegant sermons on musick, in which he particularly excelled. He died May 1755, aged 85, and was buried in Corton church.

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>c</sup> Rot. Norman. It is also said that this family had their name from the castle of Dinan, since called Ludlow in Shropshire. See Dugd. Bar. i. 513.

<sup>d</sup> Rot. Fin. 6 Joh.

<sup>e</sup> Rot. Pip. 15 Joh.

<sup>f</sup> Pat. 16 Ric. II. n. 15. per inspex.

41 Henry III. he had summons, among many others, to repair to the King at Bristol, on the octaves of St. Peter, well fitted with horse and arms, to march against the Welch.<sup>c</sup> He died 43 Hen. III. leaving issue two sons, Oliver and Geoffrey.

Oliver, his son and heir, had livery of his lands, and is certified to hold his manor of Buckland of the King in chief, as a member of his barony of Hartland. 14 Edw. I. he procured a charter of free warren for that manor,<sup>b</sup> and having been summoned to parliament among the barons, died 27 Edw. I. leaving Josce his son and heir, twenty-four years of age, who doing his homage had livery of his lands.

Which Josce died two years after, viz. 29 Edw. I. He married Margaret, daughter and heir of Sir Richard Hydon, by whom he was father of Sir John and Sir Oliver Dinham.

Sir John Dinham succeeded him, and married Joan daughter of Sir Guy de Brian, by whom he had issue another Sir John, who inherited the family estates.

This Sir John married Muriel, one of the daughters and coheirs of Sir Thomas Courtney,<sup>1</sup> and by her had issue a son of his own name.

Sir John Dinham, the third of that name, married Elizabeth the daughter of John Lord Lovel, and possessed the lordships of Buckland and Corton, with lands in Corton, and the advowson of the church of Corton, which he held of the King by knight's service.<sup>k</sup>

He was succeeded by the fourth Sir John Dinham, who married Jane the daughter and heir of Sir Richard de Arches. 8 Hen. VI. being then a knight, he was retained to serve the King in his wars of France, with eleven men at arms, and thirty-six archers. So likewise 14 Henry VI. to serve him again for the relief of Calais, with eleven men at arms, and seventy-two archers. He died 36 Henry VI. leaving John Lord Dinham his son and heir, twenty-eight years of age, who succeeded him in the estate; Margaret, wife of Sir Nicholas Carew; Catherine, wife of Sir Thomas Arundel of Lanherne; Elizabeth, first married to Fulk Bouchier lord Fitz-Warren, and secondly to Sir John Sapcotes; and Jane, wife of John lord Zouche.

John lord Dinham married Elizabeth, the widow of Sir John Radcliff, daughter and heir of Walter lord Fitz-Warren, and had issue Henry, who died childless. And so this manor, with the rest of his lands, came to the heirs general of his four sisters.

After this extinction of the name of Dinham, the manor of Corton was dissipated into a number of other possessors; it is now the property of Henry William Portman, esq.

A mile eastward is a hamlet called WITCOMBE.

The church is a rectory in the deanery of Marston, rated in 1292 at twenty marks.<sup>1</sup> The patronage is in the lord of the manor; and the Rev. Dr. Wyndham is the present incumbent.

<sup>c</sup> Claus. 41 Hen. III. m. 6.

<sup>b</sup> Cart. 14 Ed. I.

<sup>1</sup> Sir William Pole's Survey of Devon, in Hartland Hundred.

<sup>k</sup> Esc.

<sup>1</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.



It is dedicated to St. Andrew, stands on a rising ground, and consists of a nave, chancel, and north aisle, covered with tile. On the north side of the nave is an embattled tower containing five bells.

Divers of the families of Brickenden and Nash, rectors of this parish, were buried here.

## G O A T H I L L

**I**S a small parish situated in a nook of the county, surrounded on the east, south, and west, by Dorsetshire, and bounded on the north by Milborne-Port. The spot is romantick and pleasing, being in a low bottom, environed by steep hills, some of which are clothed with hanging woods, and others are smooth and bare. To the south lies part of the fine park and plantations of Lord Digby. Here are only three farm-houses, and one cottage; the whole parish being rented at only three hundred pounds per annum. A little southward of the church, in the road, are two springs, about eight feet distant from and opposite to each other. That on the west side is fine water, and deemed serviceable for disorders of the eyes. The other is a chalybeate, strongly tinged with iron, and is said to be of a purgative quality; the ground and stones where it rises are of a lively yellowish rust colour, and leaves an ochry substance on the hands; a thin greasy pellicle floats at top.

The place is called in Domesday-Book *Gatelme*, and is there recorded to be held of the Earl of Morton:

“Hunfrid holds of the Earl one hide in GATELME. Godric held it in the time of King Edward. The arable is two carucates, and there are with it two villanes, and three cottagers. There is a mill of ten shillings rent, and fifteen acres of meadow, and fifteen acres of wood. It is worth thirty shillings.”

King Edw. I. granted this manor to Simon de Montacute, in the eighteenth year of his reign;<sup>b</sup> and in that same family it continued till the time of Henry V.; when, upon the attainder of John earl of Sarum, it came to the crown. It was however shortly after regranted to Thomas Montague, the fourth earl of Salisbury, and passed by the marriage of Alice his sole daughter and heir to Richard Neville, son of Ralph the first Earl of Westmoreland, who was created Earl of Salisbury by King Henry VI. This Richard Neville was a knight of the garter, lord chancellor, and a great promoter of the interest of the house of York. In 1458, he beat the Lancastrian forces at Blore-Heath in Staffordshire, and again in 1460 at Northampton; but in the month of December the same year, in that battle at Wakefield wherein Richard Duke of York was defeated, he fell into the hands of the enemy, and was by them beheaded. He left issue Richard earl of Warwick, and John, who, in 1464, was by King Edward created

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> Cart. 18 Ed. I. n. 73.

Earl of Northumberland, in the room of Percy, who was slain at the battle of Towton, and attainted. His fidelity, however, being somewhat suspected, the people were fain to petition the restoration of young Percy to his family title and dignity: this was granted, and Neville, surrendering that title, was in lieu thereof made Marquis of Montacute. This Marquis, and his brother Richard earl of Warwick and Salisbury, were two of the greatest opponents to the marriage of King Edward, and joining all their forces to dethrone him, were both killed in the battle of Barnet, A. D. 1472. John marquis of Montacute married Isabel daughter of Sir Edmund Ingolthorp, and had issue by her two sons, George and John. The former, after his father's attainder, was stripped of all his honours and possessions, reduced to great poverty, and died without issue; and John the other son, being dead before, this manor was held by Isabel, relict of the Marquis, for the remainder of her life. Upon her decease it became the property of John Stoner, son of Sir William Stoner, who had married Ann her eldest daughter, and heir of her other daughters by the said Marquis, and from him it descended to his son William Stoner, who died seized hereof 10 Henry VII.<sup>c</sup> leaving John his son and heir, who likewise possessed this manor. After which it was divided into several parts, and held by different owners, as Baggart, Long, North, and Hannam,<sup>d</sup> till in the 19th year of Queen Elizabeth, the whole manor became vested in John Hannam, esq; and it is now the property of Henry lord Digby.

The living, which is a rectory in the deanery of Marston, was rated in 1292 at six marks and a half.<sup>e</sup> Lord Digby is patron, and the Rev. George Hutchins is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Peter, a small structure of one pace, containing nothing worthy of remark.

<sup>c</sup> Inq.

<sup>d</sup> Ter. MS.

<sup>e</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

## H E N S T R I D G E.

**A**N extensive parish on the borders of Dorsetshire, which bounds it on the south and east, comprising a little town of three streets, wherein are some very good dwellings; and the streets being wide and clean, render it a very pleasant place. The situation is on a little declivity to the north, commanding a fine extensive view of Wincanton, Stourton-Tower, and the country northward, as well as to the east and west.—There are also three hamlets, viz.

1. YEANSTON, situated one mile north.
2. WHITCHURCH, the same distance north-east; and
3. BOWDEN, nearly two miles west.

In



In the Saxon and Norman times the whole parish composed two manors; the first was demesne of the crown, and had this description :

“ The King holds HESTERIGE. Earl Harold held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for ten hides. The arable is sixteen carucates. Besides these ten hides, there is arable to the amount of eight carucates, which never paid geld. There are in demesne five carucates, and eight servants, and thirty-seven villanes, and fifteen cottagers, with sixteen ploughs. There is a mill of thirty-pence rent, and one hundred and sixty acres of meadow. Pasture one mile long, and half a mile broad. And wood of the same dimensions. It pays twenty-three pounds of white money.

“ In this manor a freeman held nine acres of land and two acres of wood. It was worth thirty-pence. He could not separate himself from the lord of the manor.”

The other manor is surveyed under the title of *The land of Earl Hugh*, [i. e. Hugh de Abrincis, earl of Chester.]

“ The church of St. Sever holds of the Earl, HENGESTERICH. Ednod held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for four hides. The arable is three carucates. Thereof in demesne are three hides and a half. And there are two carucates, and four servants, and six cottagers, with one plough. There are thirty acres of meadow, and thirty acres of pasture. Wood four furlongs long, and one furlong broad. It is worth four pounds and ten shillings.”

The church mentioned in this record was a Benedictine abbey in the town of St. Sever, in the diocese of Coutances in Normandy, founded about A. D. 558, by Severus bishop of Avranches. Being destroyed by fire, it was rebuilt and endowed with lands by Hugh de Abrincis, Viscount d' Avranches, afterwards Earl of Chester, A. D. 1085.\*

Which Hugh de Abrincis, besides the manor of Henstridge, was at the time of the Conquest possessed of Tedintone, Sandford, and Aller, in this county, and various other lands in different parts of England.<sup>d</sup> He was nephew to William the Conqueror, and, from the ferocity of his disposition, was surnamed *Lupus*. The earldom of Chester was given him to hold as free by the sword as the king held England by the crown. He died about 1 Henry I. having been a great benefactor to foreign and English monasteries, particularly to that of his own foundation, the abbey of St. Sever, to which he gave all his lands in *Endeston*, now *Yeanston*, in the parish of Henstridge, where he founded an alien priory of Benedictine monks, and made it a cell to the abbey of St. Sever abovementioned. This priory was granted 7 Edw. IV. to Eaton-college in Buckinghamshire, which received a rent from it of 7l.<sup>e</sup> But by Edw. VI. it was exchanged away for Bloxham and other lands.<sup>f</sup> And 2 Edw. VI. the farm and barton of Yeanston, and divers lands and tenements in Yeanston, and Henstridge, were held by Sir Thomas Bell, knt.<sup>g</sup>

Henstridge was the manor and estate of Henry Laci earl of Lincoln in the time of Edw. II. from whom it passed, in like manner with Charleton-Horethorne, to Thomas

\* Lib. Domesday.    b Ibid.    c Account of the Alien Priories, ii. 1.    d See Domesday-Book.

e Alien Priories, ii. 154.    f Tanner's Notitia Monastica.    g Ter. Sydenham.

earl of Lancaster, and the titles of Warren, Montacute, Bedford, and Clarence. 36 Henry VIII. the King granted to Richard Duke the manor of Henstridge, being parcel of the estate called Warwick's-Lands, to be held in capite.<sup>b</sup> There was a messuage in Henstridge situated on a certain pasture called the *East-Park*, and another pasture called the *West-Park*, both occupied by the family of Duke, and which seem to have been the territory which William de Montacute had licence from the King to environ with a fence and wall.<sup>1</sup> The manor now belongs to the Earl of Uxbridge.

An ancient manor lies within the parish of Henstridge called *Toomer*, *Dummer*, and *Toomer-Park*, which was for many generations the property and the residence of a family of distinction to whom it gave its name. The first of the family that we find in these parts is Nicholas de Dummere, who in the time of Henry III. gave lands in Saltmere to the abbot of Athelney in this county.<sup>k</sup> To him succeeded John de Dommere, lord of Chilthorne-Domer, who was living 28 Edw. I. and then gave lands in that lordship, with the advowson of the church, to Thomas bishop of Exeter.<sup>1</sup> John de Dummer succeeded him, and 18 Edw. II. is certified to hold the hamlet of Dummer of Elias de Aubeney; and the sheriff that same year accounted for eight shillings and eightpence issuing out of the said hamlet.<sup>m</sup> The next of this family was Richard Dommere, or Tommere, who 9 Edw. III. held the fourth part of one knight's fee in Chilthorne.<sup>n</sup> He died that year, and was succeeded by John de Tomere, who 20 Ric. II. bore on his seal three bars wavy.<sup>o</sup> To him succeeded Richard Tomer, (for in all these ways the name is written) who is stiled armiger, and died 2 Henry IV. seized of Toomer, and lands in Henstridge and Hinton St. George, leaving John his son and heir of the age of eight years.<sup>p</sup> Which John Tomer, dying without issue, was succeeded in this inheritance by Edith his sister, who also dying childless, 10 Henry IV. it resorted to Alice her aunt, the sister of Richard Tomer abovementioned.<sup>q</sup> This Alice was married to Sir William Carent, knt. who in her right became possessed of Toomer, and by this match (according to Leland<sup>r</sup>) the Carents' lands were most augmented. She and her husband lie interred in Henstridge church.

The family of Carent is of great antiquity, being descended from Owen de Carwent, who in the time of Henry I. was owner of a territory in Caerwent, a township so called, near Chepstow in Monmouthshire.<sup>s</sup> They first seated themselves chiefly in this county after the intermarriage with the heiress of Toomer, and made this the principal place of their residence; although they had another seat at Fayroke in this county, which they inherited from the family of Fayroke; and a third at Swanwich in the county of Dorset; which last to this day retains the name of *Carent's-Court*.<sup>t</sup>

Alexander de Carwent, 2 Edw. III. conveyed lands in Newent in the county of Gloucester, to William de Fauconberge, who is called his cousin.<sup>u</sup> The name after this was generally written Carent; but sometimes de Carent, and Caraunt.

<sup>a</sup> MSS. Carew, pen. Jac. Bernard, esq.    <sup>1</sup> Pat. 19 Ric. II.    <sup>k</sup> Cart. Antiq.    <sup>1</sup> Inq. ad quod damn,

<sup>m</sup> Rot. Pip. 28 Ed. II.    <sup>n</sup> Lib. Feod.    <sup>o</sup> Seals from ancient Deeds.    <sup>p</sup> Efc.    <sup>q</sup> Ibid.

<sup>r</sup> Itin. vii. 110.    <sup>s</sup> Rot. Walliæ.    <sup>t</sup> Hutchins's Dorset. i. 222.    <sup>u</sup> Cart. Antiq.



This Alexander was succeeded by John, and he by William Carent, whose son's name was also William.

Which last mentioned William, jointly with Joan his wife, possessed the manors of Kington and West-Marsh, as also lands in Hinton St. George, and other places in this county; and the manor of Fifehide, and lands in Todbere, Marnhill, Burton, and Ash, in the county of Dorset.\* He died 22 Edw. III. leaving issue

William his son and heir, who 36 Edw. III. was in ward to the king.<sup>7</sup> He was living 10 Ric. II. bearing then on his seal three torteaux, having on each as many chevronels.<sup>2</sup> He was lord of the manor of Great-Wishford in the county of Wilts.

Sir William Carent, knt. succeeded him, and left issue by the heiress of Toomer, William, who married Margaret daughter of William Stourton by Elizabeth his wife, the daughter of Sir John Moigne, of Maddington in the county of Wilts;<sup>4</sup> and possessed the manor of Toomer in the time of Henry V.

John Caraunt, son of William, was the King's escheator in this county 8 Hen. V. He married Joan daughter of Sir Thomas Brook, and had issue William Carent, lord of Toomer, and sheriff of this county and Dorset, in the 6, 13, 19, 25, and 29 Hen. VI.; 38 Henry VI. John Caraunt, jun. executed the same office: he had before, viz. 31 Henry VI. represented the county of Dorset in parliament.

William Carent died soon after, 2 Edw. IV. Catherine his wife surviving him, had in dower the manors of Speckington, Yeovil, and Merc. She died 13 Edw. IV.<sup>5</sup>

William Carent succeeded to the manor of Toomer, where he resided, and added to the buildings of Toomer-Court. He died 16 Edw. IV. seized of the said manor and of divers lands in Henstridge, Whitchurch, Venn, Milborne, and Pointington, leaving John Carent his son and heir.

This John died soon after, and was succeeded by William Carent, who died 19 Edw. IV. leaving John his son and heir.

To which John succeeded Sir William Carent, knight of the Bath, who was sheriff of this county and Dorset 14 Henry VIII. and dying, left issue a son of his own name, who 35 Eliz. was resident at Toomer-Park.

There were many other successions of this family of the name of William, who possessed the manor we are speaking of; till in the beginning of the present century, it was purchased with other lands by James Medlycott, esq; a master in chancery, and then member for Milborne-Port, of the last of this family father and son, who were both ushers of the black rod. The two Miss Carents of Salisbury are now the only representatives of this ancient family; whose arms somewhat differ from the ancient bearing, being *Argent* three torteaux or roundels *gules*, each charged with two chevronels of the first.

Thomas Hutchins Medlycott, esq; grandson of the abovementioned James Medlycott, esq; is the present proprietor of Toomer, now called Toomer-Farm.

\* Esc.

7 Ibid.

2 Seals from ancient Deeds.

4 Collins's Peerage, vi. 390.

5 Esc.

The living of Henstridge is a prebend in the cathedral church of Wells. It was valued in 1292 at twenty-five marks.\* The presentation of the vicarage is in Mr. Weston. Lord Francis Seymour is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Nicholas, and is a large structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, and north aisle, covered with tile. An embattled tower at the west end contains a clock and six bells.

On the north side of the chancel is a small chapel, which has been from time immemorial the burial-place of the Toomer and Carent families, and has always been repaired by the possessors of Toomer-park. In this aisle or chapel, under an elliptical arched canopy, is an altar tomb of freestone, having thereon the effigies of Sir William Carent in armour, and cropt hair; and Alice his wife, the last of the Toomer family. On the north side underneath in niches are small statues of the twelve apostles, much mutilated. The following lines are painted round the arch:

*"Sis testis Xte, quod non tumulus jacet iste,  
"Corpus ut ornetur, sed spiritus ut memoretur."*

On the cornice, as on the knight's furcoat, are these arms: viz. *Argent*, three torteaux charged with three chevronels, for Carent. *Gules*, three bars wavy *argent*, Toomer. *Sable*, a bend *or*, between six plates. The first quartering the second; the first impaling the second twice.

On the south side are six women, and a space boarded up, whereon there was once an inscription. Above the head, the feet, and the north side of the arch, in gilt letters, *Mene wel and truly. Dieu le vult.*

On the south wall of the chancel is an elegant mural monument of white and grey marble, inscribed,—“Within the communion rails lie interred the remains of Baptist Isaac, B. D. 15 years vicar of this parish, and prebendary of Compton-Dundon; only son of John Isaac, rector of Whitwell in the county of Rutland, and Mary his wife. He left issue three sons and two daughters, by Jenny his wife, the only surviving daughter of Richard Wright, M. D. and Mary his first wife, daughter of William Weston, esq; of Hargrove. He died June 20, 1772, aged 48 years. His unshaken integrity, and engaging hospitality, endear his memory, whilst they add weight to his loss; which is particularly felt by her, who with a true sense of gratitude erected this monument.”

Opposite is a small oval of white marble, suspended by a fillet, inscribed,—“To the memory of Phipps Weston, D. D. vicar of this parish, and rector of Rushall, Wilts; who departed this life 23 Nov. 1777, aged 64 years. How he discharged his duty to God and man will best appear at that day when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed.” Arms, *Or* an eagle displayed *sable*.

On the south wall of the nave is a mural monument of grey and white marble, inscribed,—“This monument was erected by Mr. Shadrach Hobbs, for his family, who are buried underneath. Susanna, his mother, died Sept. 6, 1749, aged 62. Thomas, his father, died Jan. 13, 1759, aged 70. Susanna, his first wife, died July 18, 1755, aged 33. Mary, his second wife, died July 29, 1767; aged 34. With four of his children. Also Mr. Shadrach Hobbs, who died Nov. 3, 1775, aged 54.”

\* Taxat. Spiritual.



## H O L W E L L.

**T**HIS is a long parish belonging to this county, to the civil jurisdiction whereof it is subject, although situated in the forest of Blackmore in Dorsetshire, and surrounded by that county on every side, being more than three miles distant from the nearest part of this. Here stood the principal lodge of the forest of Blackmore.<sup>a</sup>

9 John, A. D. 1209, an agreement was made at this place, on Thursday before the nativity of the Virgin Mary, between the King and Amph. Fill, for his redemption, which was ten thousand marks, and ten horses, each worth thirty marks, or so much for every horse.<sup>b</sup>

Reginald earl of Cornwall, base son of Henry I. gave this manor to William de Bicklege, or Bickleigh, so denominated from Bickleigh in this county, where he had considerable possessions. His successor was Huard de Bikelege, who 12 Joh. is certified to hold eight librates of land in Holewale.<sup>c</sup> William de Bikeley was owner of the manor 35 Henry III. and after him William and Henry de Bikeley, who lived in the time of Edw. I.<sup>d</sup> In the succeeding reign of Edw. II. Thomas Luda possessed the manor in right of his wife, the daughter and heir of Henry de Bikeley, and soon after granted it to the abbey of Abbotbury in Dorsetshire, the abbot whereof 10 Edw. III. obtained a charter of free warren in all his lands lying within the same.<sup>e</sup> After the dissolution of that house, it was purchased by Sir Giles Strangeways, who conveyed it to Humphry Watkins, esq; who resided here in the time of Queen Elizabeth.<sup>f</sup> His son Richard Watkins left one only daughter and heir Mary, married to James Hanham, of Purfe-Candel in Dorsetshire, whose posterity sold it to Thomas Gollop, of Strode, esq; but he shortly after reconveyed it to the Hanhams; and from them it came to the Henleys, of Grange in the county of Hants. It afterwards belonged to the Earl of Northington, and is now the property of Sir Richard Colt Hoare, bart.

About a mile southwest from Holwell is BUCKSHAW, now only a small hamlet and farm; but formerly a manor of some note, belonging for many generations to the family of Guldene, of Langton in Dorsetshire. Sir Henry le Gulden, knt. died 8 Edw. III. seized of Buckshaw, and had issue Sir Alan le Gulden, who at his death 35 Edw. III. left one son, Roger, and a daughter, Amice, the wife of Sir Stephen Derby, knt. who held this manor, and left it to his son Robert.<sup>g</sup> He died 9 Henry V. without issue, and was succeeded by William Derby his nephew, who was living in the time of Henry VI. By an inquisition taken 6 Edw. IV. it was found that Elizabeth Cryklade held at her death the manor of Buckshaw of Richard earl of Warwick, and that Ann the wife of Richard Cowdray, esq; was her cousin and next heir.<sup>h</sup> By another inquisition it appears that Agnes the widow of William Wheatley, and formerly the wife of William Combe, died 14 Edw. IV. seized of the manor of Buckshaw, which she held of Lord Stanley and Margaret his wife, as of their manor of Horethorne; reversionary

<sup>a</sup> Hutchins's Hist. of Dorsetshire, ii. 495.<sup>b</sup> Hutchins ut supra, ex Rymer. Fœd. i. 146.<sup>c</sup> Lib. Rub.<sup>d</sup> Efc.<sup>e</sup> Cart. 10 Ed. III. n. 41.<sup>f</sup> MS. Survey.<sup>g</sup> Efc.<sup>h</sup> Ibid.

after the death of the said Agnes to Avice late wife of William Cowdray, but then the wife of Morgan Kidwelly, as cousin and heir of Roger Gulden, esq. Thomas Combe was the heir of the said Agnes.<sup>h</sup> 39 Eliz. it was held by James Hanham, esq; and afterwards by John Herbert, esq; descended from a family seated in the county of Glamorgan in South-Wales, who built a seat here about the year 1730. It now belongs to Miss Herbert.

The scite of the manor of Buckshaw belonged to Sir Robert Henley, knt. in the year 1692, and was sold by his son Anthony Henley, esq; to William Grandy, gent. whose descendant William Grandy sold the same in 1734 to John Elbridge, esq; and now a moiety thereof belongs to Sir John Hugh Smyth, bart. in right of Elizabeth his wife, great niece of the said John Elbridge, and the other moiety to Thomas French, esq.

About a mile northeast from Holwell stands another little hamlet and farm called WOODBRIDGE, which sometime belonged to John Rich, esq.

All these places are entirely environed by Dorsetshire, and there was a particular road that connected them to the county of Somerset.

There are various reasons assigned for parcels of one county being encompassed by another, and sometimes widely distant from that to which they belong; the most prevalent one seems to be, that before the divisions of counties were thoroughly settled, such fragments of land belonged to some great persons residing at a distance, who were there rated in the assessments, and therefore those lands were in process of time reputed part of the shires wherein their possessors were seated. In the case before us, it is to be observed, that the place we are speaking of was considered as part of Dorsetshire long after the division of counties took place; and the fact is, that the family of Bickleigh, holding their lands of the lords of the manor of Horethorne, at a time when the two counties of Somerset and Dorset were under the same sheriffs; the tenants at Holwell did their suit in their lord's court at Horethorne; and thus this district became by custom incorporated, and considered as part of the hundred of Horethorne, and consequently of the county of Somerset. The same reason holds good with regard to the disjointed parcels of hundreds in one and the same county, the same hundred being sometimes scattered in three or four different parts of it. 6 and 11 Edw. I. complaint was made that several tithings had withdrawn themselves from their legal hundred, and had for the reason above assigned sued to the courts of the earls of Gloucester.<sup>i</sup>

The church of Holwell, which is a rectory in the deanery of Shafton, was appropriated to the abbey of Cirencester in Gloucestershire, and in 1292 was valued at one hundred shillings.<sup>k</sup> The abbot had a pension out of it of fifty shillings. 1 and 2 Phil. and Mary, the advowson was granted to Thomas Vavasor and Henry Ward. The perpetuity thereof was sold in the beginning of the present century by Robert Henley, of Glanvill's-Wootton, esq; to Queen's-College in Oxford, in which the patronage is now vested. The Rev. Richard Radcliffe is the present incumbent.

<sup>h</sup> Efc.

<sup>i</sup> Excheq. Somerset. See Radstock in Kilmerston Hundred.

<sup>k</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.



The church is dedicated to St. Laurence, and consists of a nave, chancel, north aisle, chapel on the south side, and a tower at the west end containing five bells.

Here was formerly a chantry called Brett's chantry.

The church and parsonage-house are in the county of Dorset, on which account the ecclesiastical jurisdiction belongs now to the bishop of Bristol, as it did anciently to the bishop of Sarum.

## H O R S I N G T O N,

**A**N extensive parish lying eastward from Charleton-Horethorne, including a considerable town, situated on the slope of a gently rising hill, in a pleasant and healthful country, the lands whereof are rich, and mostly pasture.

Its ancient name was *Horstenetone*, and its first possessor after the Conquest was William Fitz-Wido, or William Fitz-Odo, a Norman.

“ William the son of Wido holds of the King HORSTENETONE. Sauard and Eldeva held it in the time of King Edward for two manors, and might dispose of it wherever they went, and they gelded for eleven hides. The arable is ten carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and four servants, and twelve villanes, and ten bordars, and twelve cottagers, with seven ploughs and a half. There is a mill of two and forty pence rent, and one hundred acres of meadow. Pasture six furlongs long, and five furlongs broad. Wood seven furlongs long, and six furlongs broad. When he received it, it was worth eight pounds fifteen shillings, now as much. Of this land Ralf holds of William one hide and a half, and has there one plough and a half. It was always worth twenty-five shillings.”<sup>a</sup>

This William Fitz-Wido resided in these parts, and possessed the vills of Cheriton, and Combe, the last of which one of his family gave in free alms to the knights templars, and it became a cell.<sup>b</sup> In after times the manor of Horsington was possessed by a family denominated from the place, and was held by them of the honour of Montacute. John de Horfindon, by his charter dated 12 Joh. gave, granted, and confirmed, to Robert de Braibroc, for his homage and service, and in consideration of sixty marks of silver, all the land of Horfindon, which was of the fee of John de Montacute.<sup>c</sup> Hence it shortly after came by grant to the family of Newmarch, or De Novo Mercatu, descended from that Bernard de Newmarch, who attended the Conqueror into England. James de Newmarch was living 16 Joh. and possessed this manor with many other estates in the counties of Somerset, Dorset, Wilts, and Gloucester.<sup>d</sup> At his death he left issue two daughters, Isabel, the wife of Sir Ralph

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> See page 359.

<sup>c</sup> Mag. Rot. 12 Joh. rot. 26.

<sup>d</sup> Cart. Antiq.

Russell, knt. and Maud. In the division of the estates Horsington fell to Isabel the eldest, and Sir Ralph Russell, 8 Henry III. had livery of the lands of her inheritance.<sup>a</sup> By the said Isabel he had issue two sons, Robert, who died without issue 25 Edw. I. seized of lands in Horsington and Wilkinthrop in this parish, which he held of the capital lords of Horsington;<sup>f</sup> and William, who succeeded to the estate. Which William married Jane the daughter of Robert Peverel, and died seized of this manor 4 Edw. II. having held it by the service of half a barony.<sup>g</sup> To him succeeded Theobald Russell, who 13 Edw. II. being found under age, this manor of Horsington was granted to Alice de Leygrave the king's nurse, for her support during the minority of the said Theobald.<sup>h</sup> He was twice married; his first wife was Eleanor, daughter and coheir of Ralph de Gorges, a baron, by whom he left a posterity called sometimes by the name of Russell, but generally by that of Gorges: to his second wife he married another Eleanor, daughter and heir of John de la Tour. By his first wife he had issue Theobald, who assumed the name of Gorges, and was ancestor of the Gorges of Wraxal, where their chief seat was, and in the account of which further notice will be taken of this family; and Sir Ralph Russell, knt. who was of Kingston-Russel in Dorsetshire, and of Dirham in Gloucestershire. By his second wife he had issue William, who was progenitor of the Berwick family and the dukes of Bedford. After the death of the said Theobald, Eleanor, who survived him, had an assignation of the third part of this manor in dower.<sup>i</sup> After which the manor was divided between the descendants of the said heirs, till in the time of Edw. IV. it became reunited in the person of Richard Gorges, esq. He died 20 Edw. IV. and Maud his wife surviving him, married to her second husband Henry Roos, and died 1 April, 3 Henry VIII. seized of the manors of Horsington and South-Cheriton, and the advowson of the church of Horsington, and the chapel of South-Cheriton.<sup>k</sup> Marmaduke, the son and heir of the said Richard Gorges, had died before, viz. 1 Henry VIII. and Elizabeth and Maud his two daughters were found to be the next heirs of the said Maud Roos.<sup>l</sup> Elizabeth the eldest daughter was married to Thomas Shirley, who in her right enjoyed this manor, and left it to his son Francis Shirley, who 2 Eliz. sold the same to Edward Ludlow and Maud his wife, and their heirs. Robert Ludlow, son and heir of the said Edward, 16 Eliz. conveyed the manor of Horsington, and Horsington-Marsh, to Matthew Smyth, esq; and it is now the property of Walter Spencer, esq.

HORSINGTON-MARSH, SOUTH-CHERITON, or CHURTON, (where was a chapel) WILKINTHROOP, and HORWOOD, are all hamlets within this parish, and were chiefly appendant to the principal manor of Horsington.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Marston, valued in 1292 at twenty marks.<sup>m</sup> James Wickham, of Frome, esq; and Thomas Wickham, of Whitchurch, esq; are the joint patrons thereof; and the Rev. Mr. Whalley is the present incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. John Baptist, is a Gothick structure, consisting of a nave, small aisle, chancel, and porch, tiled; and a well-built embattled tower, sixty feet high, with a clock and five bells.

<sup>a</sup> Rot. Claus. 8 Hen. III.

<sup>f</sup> Esc.

<sup>g</sup> Ibid.

<sup>h</sup> Rot. Pip. 13 Ed. II.

<sup>i</sup> Rot. Claus.

<sup>k</sup> Coles's Escheats.

<sup>l</sup> Ibid.

<sup>m</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.



On the south wall of the chancel is a handsome mural monument of marble, terminated by a mitred pediment and urn.—“Here lyes the body of Mr. William Gifford, gent. son of Benjamin Gifford, of Boreham in the county of Wilts, esq; who dyed the 30th of Nov. 1693, aged 36. Also Benjamin Gifford, esq; his son, who dyed June 13, 1713, aged 25. Likewise all that could dye of Alicia daughter of the said William Gifford, and the beloved wife of George Doddington, esq; was buried June 27, 1745, aged 54 years.” Below are the arms cut in stone: Quarterly, first and fourth, three stirrups within a bordure engrailed. Second and third, a chevron between three lions rampant.

On a mural monument of white marble in the chancel:—“The remains of George Doddington, esq; who died Oct. 27, 1762, aged 1 year and 8 months.”

At the southeast end of the nave is an elegant mural monument of white and Sienna marble; on the tablet is this inscription:—“Sacred to the memory of the Rev. Anthony Wickham, A. M. late rector of this parish, who departed this life April 15, 1767. With a hope full of immortality, through the revelation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He was pious without hypocrisy; charitable without ostentation; hospitable without extravagance. Such was his amiable disposition, that he was alike respected and beloved by the rich and poor. He had two wives; his first, Jane, daughter of Mr. George Brodrigg, of the city of London. His second, Dorothy, daughter of John Lloyd, of Soughton in the county of Flint, esq. His remains, and those of his wives, are deposited in the church-yard near the south window. This monument was erected by his grateful kinsman the Rev. John Wickham, A. M. rector of Sampford; and James Wickham, of Frome, gent.” Arms, *Argent*, two chevrons *sable*, between three roses *gules*.

On a flat stone in the chancel floor is an inscription to the memory of Rooke Doddington, esq. Arms, Three bugle horns.

On two black frames the following benefactions to the poor are recorded:

“Thomas Abbot, gent. gave North-Close in North-Cheriton, to the use of the second poor.

“Thomas Rolt, gent. gave lands in Abbot's-Combe, called Gadgrove, and other lands, after the death of Elizabeth Winscomb, for the use of the poor for ever.

“Memorandum. The parish exchanged the church-house for five houses in Broadmead-lane with Thomas Gawen, esq; for the use of the parish 1722.

“By the will of John Wickham, late of Sherborne, deceased, five pounds a year are given to the rector of this parish in trust for the poor to be paid on St. Thomas's-day out of lands called Great-Lyes and Little-Lyes.”

There is a charity-school here endowed with five pounds per annum, for teaching twelve poor children.



## MARSTON-MAGNA, or BROAD-MARSTON,

(So called to distinguish it from MARSTON-PARVA, a farm in this parish one mile west; MARSTON-BIGÔT; and other places of the name)

**I**S a parish in the western extremity of the hundred, situated in a low flat country, thickly inclosed with wood, of which elm grows in great abundance; the lands are mostly pasture, and the soil wet and cold. About the year 1778, on opening a marle pit, several masses of very curious calcarious blue stone were discovered here, in appearance an indurated marle, entirely filled with a new species of cornua-ammonis, covered with the original white pearl, and refracting the prismatick colours. They were in general small, from one quarter of an inch to an inch in diameter, and of a purplish violet colour. This stone was raised in masses sufficiently large to make side-boards of four feet by two and a half, took a fine polish, and was extremely beautiful.

In the time of Edward the Confessor, Marston was held by a number of thanes, no less than nine, who at the Conquest being put out of their possessions, King William the Conqueror gave it to Robert earl of Morton, who held part of it in demesne :

“ The Earl himself holds MERSTONE. Four thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is five carucates. In demesne is one carucate, with one servant, and five villanes, and ten cottagers, with three ploughs. There are forty acres of meadow, and thirty acres of wood. It was and is worth ten pounds.”

“ Robert holds of the Earl, MERSTONE. Five thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides. The arable is two carucates. These are occupied by five villanes and two cottagers, and there are twenty-four acres of meadow. It was worth forty shillings, now sixty shillings.”

It was afterwards held by the Barons Beauchamp of Hatch, and continued in that name till the time of Edw. III. when it passed by a coheiress of John de Beauchamp to Sir John Meriet, who 46 Edw. III. is said to hold it of the honour of Farley-Monachorum.<sup>b</sup> In the time of Henry V. it was in the Stourton family, and 9 Edw. IV. was the possession of Humphry Stafford earl of Devon. In 1690, Lennard lord Dacre died seized of it; and it has now for its possessor Humphry Sydenham, of Dulverton, esq; who inherits it from Sir John St. Barbe, of Broadlands in the county of Southampton, bart.

Marston denominates a deanery. So early as 9 Ric. I. the church was appropriated to the Benedictine nunnery of Polleshoo, or Polsho, in the county of Devon, founded by William Briwere in that reign.<sup>c</sup> In 1292 it was taxed at twenty-four marks six shillings and eight-pence.<sup>d</sup> The vicarage was endowed with twelve marks.<sup>e</sup> A pension of seven shillings was paid out of the rectory to the prior of Montacute.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.    <sup>b</sup> Esc.    <sup>c</sup> Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.    <sup>d</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.    <sup>e</sup> Regist. Wellen.



By the verbal appointment of Sir John St. Barbe, Humphrey Sydenham, esq; lord of this manor, and devisee of his last will and testament, conveyed to the Rev. John Rutherford, vicar of this parish, and his successors, vicars of the said parish, for ever, the rectory or impropriate parsonage of Marston-Magna with all its appertinances.<sup>f</sup>

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and consists of a nave, chancel, and north aisle, with a strong embattled tower, containing a clock and four bells.

In the chancel is an old reading-desk with the following inscription:

“Orate pro anima Dñi Johis Rowswell, vicarii.”

<sup>f</sup> From a marble tablet in the church.

## P O I N T I N G T O N.

A Small parish on the confines of Dorsetshire, having Sherborne in that county, two miles distant, on the south, and Milborne-Port in this county on the east. The situation is exceedingly pleasant, being in a fine fertile vale, surrounded by considerable hills, the tops of which form a beautiful outline, being finely indented and broken by small openings. These hills are mostly arable and open, or cut into large inclosures, without much wood.

“William holds of the Earl [Morton] PONDITONE. Adulf held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides and a half. The arable is three carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and four villanes, and six cottagers, with two ploughs. There is a mill of thirty-two pence rent, and half an acre of meadow, and twenty acres of pasture. It is worth forty shillings.”

Richard de Pondetone occurs witness to a charter made to Glastonbury-abbey in the time of Henry II. from which it may be concluded that this place had either lords of its own name after the Conquest, or at least a family resident here of very considerable account.<sup>b</sup> In the time of Edw. I. it was possessed by the family of Cheney, or de Caineto, of Norman extraction. 14 Edw. I. William de Cheney held one knight's fee here, and was succeeded by Nicholas de Cheney, who held the same 28 Edw. I.<sup>c</sup> Nicholas de Cheney, son and heir of Nicholas, died seized of the manor of Pointington 19 Edw. II. leaving William his son and heir.<sup>d</sup> Which William, who was a knight, was dead before 20 Edw. III. his wife Joan having then an assignation of a moiety of the manor in dower.<sup>e</sup> 13 Ric. II. John de Montacute held two knights' fees here of the grant of John de Grandison bishop of Exeter.<sup>f</sup> About the time of Henry V. Edmund Cheney died seized of this manor without issue, and thereupon it passed to Ralph brother of

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domeſday.    <sup>b</sup> Regiſt. Glaſton. The arms of Pontington were on a bend three roundels.    <sup>c</sup> Eſc.

<sup>d</sup> Rot. Pip. 1 Ed. III.

<sup>e</sup> Rot. Claus. 20 Ed. III.

<sup>f</sup> Lib. Feod.

Edmund,

Edmund, and from him to another Edmund cousin of Ralph, who died 9 Hen. VI. Ralph de Cheney bore on his seal a fesse lozengy, each lozenge charged with an escallop.<sup>c</sup> This manor became afterwards the possession of Robert lord Willoughby of Broke, who was a knight of the garter, and died in 1521. He married Elizabeth one of the daughters and coheiresses of Richard lord Beauchamp, of Powick in the county of Worcester, by whom he had an only son Edward, who died in his father's life-time. This Edward married Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Neville lord Latimer, and by her had issue three daughters; of whom the two youngest dying without issue, Elizabeth became sole heiress, and was one of the greatest fortunes of her time, being heiress both to Lord Willoughby and Lord Beauchamp.

The wardship of this Lady Elizabeth was given to Sir Edward Grevile, of Milcot in Warwickshire, who intended her for John Grevile his eldest son; but Fulk the younger, being her favourite, she became his wife. This Fulk was afterwards knighted by King Henry VIII. and died in 1559, leaving issue Sir Fulk Grevile, who succeeded him, and divers other children.

Which Sir Fulk Grevile married Anne, the daughter of Ralph Neville earl of Westmoreland, and died in 1606, seized of this manor of Pointington, which he is certified to have held of George Luttrell, esq; as of the manor of Dunster, by fealty and suit of court.<sup>d</sup> He left issue an only son, Sir Fulk, and one daughter, Margaret.

Sir Fulk Grevile, his son and heir, was a great favourite in the court of Queen Elizabeth. In 1620 he was created by King James I. Lord Broke, of Beauchamp-court in the county of Warwick. In 1628 he was basely murdered by one of his own domesticks, in a rage excited by a discovery he had made that his master had left him nothing in his will; and was buried in the family vault at Warwick.

Upon his death, the elder branch of the family in the male line ended; and Margaret his sister, having married Sir Richard Verney, of Compton in Warwickshire, knight. she carried the title of Willoughby de Broke into his family, wherein it still remains in the person of John-Peyto Verney, baron Willoughby de Broke, who is lord of this manor. His lordship's arms are, *Gules*, three crosses recercele *or*; a chief *vair*, *ermine* and *ermine*.

The court-house is a venerable old building, near the church.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Marston, and in the patronage of the lord of the manor. The Rev. Mr. Paget is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to All-Saints; it consists of a nave and south aisle leaded, and a chancel covered with tile.

Under one of the arches which separate the aisle from the nave, on an old stone tomb, the front of which is decorated with Gothick arches, lies the mutilated effigies of a knight in armour.

On the south wall of the south aisle is a small but curious old monument of red and white marble, having on the table a man in armour, and a woman in a large ruff and

<sup>c</sup> Seals from ancient deeds.

<sup>d</sup> Inq. capt. ap Warwick, 5 Jac.



loose white robe, kneeling opposite each other, with an altar desk between them, on which is a blue cloth with a gilt fringe. Behind the woman is her daughter: both their head-dresses are winged caps, stiff plaited over the forehead, and a black hood with a long lappet behind. Below is this inscription:

“Heere George Tilly, esquier, lieth, and Mary his wife; this being erected by Sir Edward Parham, knt. who married the daughter and heire Elizabeth.” Above are three coats of arms: viz. 1. *Argent*, on a chevron between three mallets *gules*, as many lions’ paws erased *or*. Crest; a lion’s paw erased *or*, holding a mallet erect *gules*: Parham. 2. *Argent*, a wivern *sable*: Tilly. 3. The two first coats impaled.

In a gilt frame is this inscription:—“Thomas Mallet, mil. unus Justitiariorum Domini Regis ad placita coram ipso Rege tenenda assignato. Obijt 19<sup>o</sup> die Decembris anno ætatis suæ 83, 1665.”

On another:—Baldwin Mallet, second son of Sir Thomas Mallet, died in the King’s service, the 3d of June 1646, aged 20.” Arms, *Azure*, three escallops *or*.

On the north side of the chancel is an old stone tomb with this inscription:—“Here lyeth the body of Water Blobole, parson of this parish, buried Jan. 19, 1617.”

On a stone in the floor:—“Here lieth the body of John Paget, M. A. late rector of this church, who died April 20, 1745, aged 81.” There are divers other memorials to the same family.

The christenings in this parish are on an average three; the burials two.

## S A N D F O R D - O R C A S,

**I**S a parish westward from Pointington, and three miles north from Sherborne in Dorsetshire, containing forty-four rough stone thatched houses and cottages, most of which are situated in a long winding narrow vale, with high hills rising in a steep ascent on either side. The vale is thickly wooded in the hedge-rows, and many of the houses have considerable orchards. Two small brooks, joining in this parish, turn an overshot mill here in their way to the Ivel.

The additional name of this place arose from its ancient possessors, the family of *Orescuilz*, of which *Orcas* is a strange corruption. The manor belonged in the Conqueror’s time to Hugh de Abrincis earl of Chester.

“William holds of the Earl, SANFORD. In the time of King Edward it gelded for “two hides. The arable is five carucates. In demesne is one carucate, with one “servant, and eight villanes, with one plough. There are nine acres of meadow, and “fifty acres of wood, and a mill. It was and is worth three pounds.”

• Lib. Domesday.

The family of Orescuilz came from Normandy, and bore for their arms six lions rampant.<sup>b</sup> Little mention is made of them in history; but thus far we know, that they possessed lands in this county, Wilts, and Gloucester, soon after the Conquest. In the time of King Henry I. Henry Orescuilz held one knight's fee in this county of the abbot of Glastonbury, in which possession he was succeeded by Helias de Orescuilz his son, who was living 12 Henry II.<sup>c</sup> To this Helias succeeded Richard de Orescuilz, lord of this manor, and that of Sturis, in the beginning of the reign of King John; in the 12th of which, Roger de Viliers paid twenty marks that he might inherit the share of his mother Alice in the lands of the said Richard de Orescuilz.<sup>d</sup> Maud the daughter and coheir of this Richard, and sister of the said Alice, was lady of the manor of Sharncot in the county of Wilts, as also of the manor of Sandford. She married William the son of John de Harptree, of Harptree in this county, who possessed the same in her right, and transmitted it to his posterity, of whom were the Gournays, De la Mores, and others. The manor now jointly belongs to Dorrington Hunt, of Pitcombe, esq; and to Charles and John Hutchins, esqrs.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Marlton, valued in 1292 at fifteen marks.<sup>e</sup>

The church is dedicated to St. Nicholas, and consists of a nave, chancel, fourth aisle, and tower with five bells.

In the aisle is an old mural monument of stone, the upper part of which forms two recesses; in one are the effigies of a man and woman kneeling face to face; the man holds a scull; the woman a bible; behind them are three boys and four girls kneeling. In the other recess is a woman kneeling with a scull in her hand; and behind her lie four infants swathed up like mummies. The man has a sword in a military belt. Below is this inscription:

"Here lyeth the body of William Knoyle, of Santford-Orcas, esq. Hee was first married to Phillip daughter of Robert Morgane, of Maperton in the county of Dorset, esq; by whome he had issue four children, and bee dead. Hee was secondly married to Grace Clavel, daughter of Joseph Clavel, of Barstone in the county of Dorset, esq; by whom hee had yssue 3 sons and 4 daughters. Hee died Jan. 21, 1607, in the 49th yeare of his age." Arms, *Gules*, on a bend *argent*, three escallops *sable*, Knoyle. Impaling three horses current *argent*.

On another handsome mural monument of various coloured marble, is an inscription to the memory of John Hutchins, esq; son of Samuel Hutchins, of South-Cadbury, esq; and Elizabeth his wife, daughter of James Medlycott, esq; whose arms are, *Argent*, three lions passant *sable*, two and one, Hutchins; impaling, *gules* and *azure*, per fesse indented, three lions rampant *argent*, Medlycott.

In the church-yard are the remains of an old cross, and a large and very ancient yew-tree.

Francis Godwin, D.D. the celebrated writer of "*De Præfulibus Angliæ Commentarius*," was sometime rector of this parish.

<sup>b</sup> Ancient Seals.

<sup>c</sup> Lib. Nig. Scac. i. 89.

<sup>d</sup> Rot. Pip. 12 Joh.

<sup>e</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.



## S T A W E L, or S T O W E L,

**I**S the next parish southward from Horfington, comprising a small straggling village, situated in a woody vale, and watered by a rivulet, which rises in Charlton-Horethorne, and runs through Milborne-Port into the Yeo near Sherborne. Another brook rising in a wood here passes through the parish of Abbot's-Combe. The lands are chiefly pasture.

This place was anciently written *Stanwelle*, or the Stone Fount, and is thus recorded in Domesday-Book:

“Azeline [de Percheval] holds of the Bishop [of Coutances] STANWELLE. Tur-mund held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is four carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and two servants, and five villanes, and seven bordars, and two cottagers, with two ploughs. There are sixteen acres of meadow, and five acres of pasture, and six acres of coppice wood. It was worth forty shillings, now sixty shillings.”

In the time of Edw. I. this manor was held by the family of Muscegros, of Charlton Musgrove, and consisted of two knight's fees.<sup>b</sup> Hawise, the heir of Robert de Muscegros, was married to Sir William Mortimer, knt. who had the manor of Stowel, and died seized thereof 25 Edw. I.<sup>c</sup> 9 Ric. II. Sir Edmund Molyns, knt. held the manor and the advowson of the church jointly with Isabel his wife, of Sir Matthew de Gournay, as of his manor of Curry-Mallet.<sup>d</sup> Sir John Tiptot, knt. Lord Powis, was seized of this manor 21 Hen. VI. and 13 Edw. IV. Elizabeth the widow of Robert Cappes held the same at her death of Margaret Countess of Richmond, leaving John the son of Sir John Hody, knt. her heir.<sup>e</sup> Christopher Hody, esq; died seized of the manor and advowson 15 Jac. I. leaving John his son and heir.<sup>f</sup> Samuel Dodington, esq; is the present lord of the manor.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Marston; it was valued in 1292 at seven marks,<sup>g</sup> and is now in the patronage of Samuel Dodington, esq. The Rev. Mr. Pye is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, and is a small building fifty-six feet long, and sixteen wide, being of one pace, with a square tower, rebuilt in the year 1748, and containing three bells.

On the east wall of the chancel are the following inscriptions:—“Here lieth the body of Thomas Mogg, rector, who died Nov. 27, 1708. Catharine Mogg, the wife of T. M. rector, was buried Aug. 14, 1684.”

“Believe aright, and live as you believe; and you cannot but die in safety.”

The average christenings in this parish are three, the burials two annually.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.    <sup>b</sup> Lib. Feod.    <sup>c</sup> Efc.    <sup>d</sup> Ibid.    <sup>e</sup> Ibid.    <sup>f</sup> Ibid.    <sup>g</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

## T R E N T

**I**S a parish four miles nearly west from Sherborne, twelve east from Ivelchester, and three northeast from Yeovil.

Mr. Baxter, in his Glossary, derives the name of Trent or Treonta from the British Troijent, which implies a winding river. Trent is washed on the west by the river Ivel, and on the south by a stream from a spring which rises at Nether-Compton in Dorset.

This village stands upon a rising ground, open to the west and south, and is guarded by a considerable hill on the east, which renders it remarkably warm and healthy.

It consists principally of a long straggling street near the church, and two hamlets; viz. ADDEER, one mile northwest, containing ten houses; and HUMMER, half a mile west, five houses. The whole number of houses (most of which are of rough stone) is about 80; and of inhabitants, nearly 400.

On examining a period of forty-two years, (from 1560 to 1601 inclusive) there appear to have been 96 marriages, and 387 births; (each marriage having produced four children on an average) and the burials 198. The proportion of males to females born during this period is 4 to 3. The births from 1772 to 1782 are 12; burials 11 each year on an average. The register begins 1 Eliz.

The situation is woody, but the country round is pleasingly varied with hills and vallies.

The soil towards the upper part of the parish is a light sand, which changes by degrees into a loam, and becomes in the lower side a strong blue clay. It is very fertile, and has the advantage of a large marle-pit. The marle is blue, greasy, and hard almost as stone when first raised; but being beaten into small pieces, and exposed a while to the air, it soon dissolves, and easily incorporates with the earth. Between forty and fifty load is the quantity usually laid on an acre, which in pasture or meadow ground, it is said, will continue forty or fifty years without any sensible decay. It is also found to be very good manure for arable land, but the improvement is not so lasting. After three or four years ploughing it sinks by its weight beyond the reach of the plough, and loses its virtue.

The greatest part of this parish is inclosed. The oxen fed upon it are of the large kind, and acknowledged to be as good beef as any that are driven to London.

Few parishes are so well planted with orchards, or afford greater quantities of good fruit for cyder.

Here is little oak, but ash and elm thrive well, and grow to large trees in a short time.

The manor of Trent, as well as almost all others in this neighbourhood, belonged in the time of William the Conqueror to Robert Earl of Morton.

“Ansger holds of the Earl, TRENT. Brisnod held it in the time of King Edward,  
“and gelded for seven hides. The arable is five carucates. In demesne is one  
“carucate,



“carucate, and six servants, and seven villanes, and ten cottagers, with four ploughs.  
 “There are thirty acres of meadow, and sixty acres of pasture, and thirty acres of  
 “wood. It was and is worth eight pounds.”<sup>a</sup>

It was afterwards granted to the family of Mohun, and from them passed to the Briweres; but in the time of Edw. I. the manor was the property of Walter le Bret, who held it of the castle of Dunster, and died seized thereof 4 Edw. I. leaving issue two daughters, Alice and Annora, between whose descendants the estate was divided.<sup>b</sup> 17 Edw. II. Alan de Chastellain held a third part of the manor of Trent, of Robert de Seford and Maud his wife, by the rent of one penny per annum. Thomas Chastellain his son and heir succeeded him.<sup>c</sup> 46 Edw. III. Robert Wyke held a third part of Trent of the honour of Farley-Monachorum; and 10 Ric. II. a third part of the same belonged to Sir Thomas West, and descended to his son Thomas West.<sup>d</sup> In process of time the principal estate and whole manor of Trent became the property of the family of Stork, from whom it descended by coheiresses to the families of Gerard, Wyndham, and Young. The heiress of the Wyndham family was married to Henry Bromley, esq; of Cambridgeshire, created Lord Montfort by Geo. II. who having no male heir, sold the estate to Mr. Colliton, a gentleman of Hertfordshire. From him, by a second purchase, it came into the hands of Francis Seymour, esq; second son of Sir Edward Seymour, of Maiden-Bradley in Wilts. It thence passed to Henry Seymour, esq; son to Francis aforesaid. Sir Francis Wyndham, the last of that name who lived at this place, was a colonel in the army of Cha. I. and is recorded to have sheltered Cha. II. for some time at his house in Trent, after the battle of Worcester, till he could make his escape abroad. For this service, after the Restoration, he was created a baronet, with a pension of 600*l.* a year settled upon him and his heirs male for ever, besides some considerable annuities granted to his sisters for their lives. The second Sir Francis, son of this Colonel Wyndham, a little before his death erected a very handsome house of freestone, with four beautiful fronts, [over the door, date 1709, and the family motto] at the expence of near 6000*l.* which in the year 1771 was entirely taken down, and not a single trace of it now remains.

The other branch of the Storks' estate is likewise in the possession of Henry Seymour, esq; whose father purchased it of the late Rev. Mr. Walker, of Spetisbury near Blandford, in Dorsetshire; to whom it came by his marriage with Miss Young, the only remaining branch of that family.

To Mr. Young, of London, merchant, native of this place, this parish is indebted for a free-school for teaching boys to read and write; who, in his will, directs his executors to lay out and disburse within four years after his decease, the sum of one thousand pounds in the buying or new building a school-house in the parish of Trent, and in the purchasing of lands or tenements in fee-simple for maintaining the same, and of a schoolmaster, and twenty sons of poor inhabitants of that parish; and for want of so many there, the number was to be made up out of the two parishes of Mudford and Nether-Compton, in the county of Dorset. Pursuant to these directions, a very

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domestday.<sup>b</sup> Rot. Claus.<sup>c</sup> Etc.<sup>d</sup> Ibid.

good school-house was soon after erected; and the remaining part of the money was laid out in two estates, one lying in the parish of Charlton-Mackerel near Somerton, and the other in South-Brewham near Bruton.

Over the school door, upon a marble scroll, is the following inscription:

" This school-house was built and endowed at the proper cost of Mr. John Young, (born in this parish, and late of London, merchant, deceased) by the direction of his executor William Love, of London, merchant, who in pursuance of the testator's will hath settled it in trustees. A. D. 1678."

On the east side of the church-yard is a house, which, by the manner of building, carvings and coats of arms, appears to have formerly belonged to the church. Wood, in his antiquities of Oxford, among the benefactors of Oriel college, mentions one Frank, who was born at Trent, and was master of the rolls in Henry the VIth's time. He gave to Oriel college one thousand pounds, with which was purchased the reversion, after two lives, of the manor of Wadley in Berkshire, charging his legacy with a pension of twelve marks per annum, for the support of a chantry at his native place of Trent. The house abovementioned was probably appropriated to this chantry; but the pension was sunk at the Reformation, and is now paid by Oriel college to the crown. The last incumbent was John Shete, who in 1553 had a pension of six pounds.<sup>c</sup>

On the east, at a small distance from the church, stands the parsonage-house, on a well-chosen spot of ground. The front to the west is of freestone in the modern taste, very neat and plain. It was built in the year 1725 by the then incumbent Mr. Gardiner, son to Dr. Gardiner, bishop of Lincoln. The south front was rebuilt in the year 1780.

In the hamlet of ADBeer was formerly a chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and belonging to the mother church; but it was demolished in the time of the great rebellion.

In ancient times there were two hamlets of this name, viz. NETHER--ADBeer, and OVER-ADBeer, or, as they are written in Domesday-Book, *Etesberie*, and *Ette'bere*. They are thus surveyed:

" Drogo holds of the Earl [Morton] in ETESBERIE three virgates of land. Alwi held them in the time of King Edward. The arable is half a carucate, and there are with it three cottagers. There are six acres of meadow, and ten acres of wood. " It was and is worth ten shillings."<sup>f</sup>

" Siward [a thane] holds ETTEBERE. The same held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is one carucate and a half, and there are on it two villanes and three cottagers. There are six acres of meadow, and one furlong of wood in length and breadth. It was formerly and is now worth twenty shillings."<sup>g</sup>

The manors of Adbeer and Hummer were afterwards bestowed on the Earl of Morton's Cluniac priory at Montacute in this county, founded in the beginning of the

<sup>c</sup> Willis's Hist. of Abbies, 2.

<sup>f</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>g</sup> Ibid.



reign of King Henry I. but the lands were soon after seized on occasion of the founder's rebellion, and possessed by other owners. 10 Henry III. Jordan de Alneto paid twenty shillings for cutting down his wood at Ettebere, without licence, before perambulation.<sup>b</sup> Gervase de Alneto (probably son of Jordan) was owner of Ettebere in the latter end of the reign of Henry III.<sup>c</sup> In the time of Edw. I. the family of Windfore had possessions here and in Mudford.<sup>d</sup> 26 Edw. III. Thomas Huntleghe held two parts of the manor of Nether-Adbeer, and divers lands in Over-Adbeer, of Sir Walter de Romesey.<sup>e</sup> Hence it came to the Carents, who possessed the two hamlets of Over and Nether-Adbeer, and the hamlet of Hummer, for many generations. Catherine, the widow of William Carent, esq; died seized of these premises 13 Edw. IV. holding them of George duke of Clarence, as of his manor of Yarlington. John Wadham is found by the inquisition to be her heir. Which John Wadham died seized of Adbere the following year, and was succeeded in his estates by a son of his own name.<sup>f</sup> The Wadhams were of Merryfield.<sup>g</sup>

The abbess of Studley in Oxfordshire had a yearly pension of six marks from the manor of Trent.<sup>h</sup>

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Marston, valued in 1292 at thirty marks;<sup>i</sup> the advowson was formerly in the family of the Storks, one of which family having bequeathed it to a religious house, it was seized by Henry VIII. at the dissolution of the monasteries, and continued in the crown till a grant was made of it by James I. to Sir Henry Fowkes, bart. Of him it was purchased by Corpus-Christi college, Oxford.

#### List of the Rectors from the Reformation.

1. Henry Stephen; he died 1542.
2. Emery Tuckfield, presented by Hen. VIII.; inducted Feb. 22, 1542.
3. Robert Elliot, presented by Philip and Mary, Jan. 7, 1557.
4. Henry Beaumont, presented by Eliz. Sept. 17, 1585, resigned the year following.
5. John Seward, presented by Eliz. Jan. 23, 1586.
6. Henry Seward, presented by Thomas Shuter, de Clauso Sarum, Ap. 8, 1625.
7. Benjamin Elliot, Fellow of C.C.C. presented by the college, Sept. 16, 1640.
8. Elias Wrench, presented by C.C.C. April 6, 1644, for the first 16 years deprived of his living by the rebel parliament.
9. Amos Berry, presented by C.C.C. 1680.
10. Charles Gardiner, by C.C.C. Feb. 20, 1723.
11. Barnabas Smyth, by C.C.C. Oct. 26, 1732.
12. Henry Pinnel, by C.C.C. instituted May 28, 1760.
13. George Beaver, (the present incumbent) by C.C.C. instituted Feb. 14, 1770.

Rectory present value	£.23	5	5	}	£.25	11	11½
Tenths	—	2	6				

The church (which is dedicated to St. Andrew) is a strong well-built Gothick edifice, consisting of a nave, north aisle, and porch, the latter large and lofty. At the southeast

<sup>a</sup> Rot. Pip. 10 Hen. III.    <sup>c</sup> Cart. Antiq.    <sup>d</sup> Esc.    <sup>e</sup> Ibid.    <sup>f</sup> Ibid.    <sup>g</sup> See vol. i. p. 48.

<sup>h</sup> Taxat. Temporal.

<sup>i</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

corner, between the porch and chancel, is a tower 59 feet high, with a well-proportioned hexagon spire of 35 feet besides the iron and weather-cock, which are 6 feet above it; the whole height 100 feet. The pinnacles which stood originally at each corner of the tower are destroyed; but here is a clock and five bells.

The bells bear the following inscription:—1. “*Augustine tuam campanam protege sanam.*” 2. *Campana sci Andreæ Ecc Trentæ.* 3. Draw near to God, 1603. 4. *Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis.* 5. This bell was made by the parishioners of Trent in 1604. William Gerard, esq; and Thomas Loscomb, benefactors. Tho. Pennington new cast me in 1626.

The chancel appears to have been built since the church; it being considerably higher, and covered with stone tile. It is wainscotted round as high as the windows, which are five in number, and of crown glass. The Rev. Barnabas Smith, rector of this parish, at his own expence altered the seats, glazed the windows, and floored the whole area within the rails with a beautiful stone richly veined from Longburton near Sherborne, and the rest with Portland stone ornamented with little square dots of the former. He moreover presented the parish with a service of communion plate, consisting of a flagon, a chalice, and patine, and a dish for receiving the oblations; all plain silver, but neat and handsome.

On the south side of the church, an arch opens into an aisle about twelve feet square, which belongs to Henry Seymour, esq. In this aisle is a spacious vault, formerly the burying-place of the Youngs.

On the north side of the church is an aisle, which formerly belonged to the Gerard and Wyndham families. The entrance into it is through a very curious arch, the bend of which is painted all over with laurel branches and leaves, among which are forty armorial shields, representing the alliances of the families of Coker and Gerard.

The screen which separates the body of the church from the chancel has the appearance of great antiquity. The lower part is wainscot; from which go ballustrades tapering upwards, and branching out at top into elliptic arches embellished with carved work, very light and airy. Over it was formerly a rood loft, part of which is still remaining, neatly carved and painted. Beneath it are the remains of a border of extremely rich work, divided by narrow slips of timber into four rows, carved, painted and gilded in the most beautiful manner. This, and the screen to the chancel, are evidently of a different stile from the rest of the church; and were probably ornaments of some part of the abbey church of Glastonbury.

At entering the church, on the left, is a piece of antiquity which escaped the zeal of our reformers; viz. the Ave Maria carved upon the front boards of the seats, in protuberant letters, but in a very rude and coarse manner. On the two opposite seats are the crown of thorns, ladder, nails, &c. and the letters J. H. S.

In the north aisle are two statues in stone, lying at full length under two arches in the north wall, which appear to have been moved hither from some other place; probably from the opposite wall when the aisle was built, and the communication made between the church by a large arch; for they are certainly much older than the aisle. The one  
is



is in armour from head to foot with his hands joined on his breast, and legs strait; the other is in much the same posture, but a different habit, having a military belt and sword hanging from it. The taperness of the fingers, the remarkable slenderness of the wrists and ancles, the garments hanging down in folds to the feet, which are very small, a hood thrown over the head and drawn together under the throat, with the resemblance of a mantle falling on the shoulders, and the whole figure being at least a foot shorter than the other, give it altogether the appearance of a female. The feet of each rest on a dog, which is part of the Gerard arms.

The pulpit and reading-desk are of old wainscot carved; each of them has a cushion and cloth made out of the whittle in which King Henry VIII. was christened; being a crimson brocade flowered richly with gold and silver tissue, and blue silk.

The singers' gallery is between the chancel and the nave, and on the top are the royal arms, six feet by six, all cut out of one solid board without a joint, and well painted. Here are five doors, thirteen windows, and six pews; and several old helmets, gauntlets, &c.

On the south side of the chancel is an ancient mural monument of stone, four feet by five. On the right and left of the tablet are two round black columns with Corinthian capitals gilded. On one of them is the head of a negro; on the other a man's leg and foot, cut off just above the knee, with a black leathern buskin on it. The tablet is inscribed,—“To the memory of Thomas Hussy, son and heyre of Gyles Hussy, of Edmondsham in the county of Dorset, esq. Bridget his wife, daughter of Robert Coker, of Mapowder in the same county, esq; hath erected this. He dyed the 19th of March in the yeere of our Lord 1630, and of his age neere 32.

Reader, here below doth lye  
A pattern of trew pietye;  
Whose example none neede shame  
To follow: few can bee the same.  
Yeares scarce thirty-two hee told,  
When in goodness growen old  
Hee dyed, and so injoys long rest,  
God takes them soonest he loves best.”

Between the windows, on the north wall, is a mural monument inscribed,—“Here lye buried the bodies of Tristeram Storke, of Trent, esq; and Alice his wife, daughter unto Robert Bingham, of Bingham's-Melcomb, esq; which Tristeram dyed the 18th of August 1532, and left four daughters his heyres: Joane, the wife of Richard Compton, esq; Ann, the wife of John Larder, esq; Isabel, the wife of Alexander Seymour, esq; and Mary, the wife of William Gerard, esq.”

On the east wall is another mural monument, with this inscription:—“Near this place lieth the body of Henry Pinnell, B. D. lately fellow of C. C. C. Oxon, and rector of this parish; who departed this life Nov. 22, 1769, aged 52 years. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Prattenton, vicar of Prittleworth in the county of Suffex; who, surviving him, erected this stone as an humble testimony of her great regard for a most affectionate husband, and a very worthy man.”

In the chancel floor, on two flat stones:—"Here lieth the body of Amos Berry, of C.C.C. Oxon, Fellow, B. D. rector of this parish from 1680 to 1723, when he died Feb. 20, aged 89. Here also lies Margaret his wife, who departed this life June 29, 1734, in the 91st year of her age.—The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God."

"Elias Wrench, S. T. B. e C. C. C. Oxon. quond. socius hujus ecclesiæ rector inductus A° 1644, ob' A° 1680, æt. 75."

On a stone at the south end, under the fingers' gallery:—"Here lyeth the body of Elizabeth Martyn, relict of Ralph Martyn, late of Marston in the county of Somerset, gent. who departed this life July 10, 1693, aged 60."

On another stone at the entrance of the chancel:—"Here lie the bodies of Gideon Pittard, gent.; Frances, his wife; John, his son; and Rose, his daughter. Gideon dyed August y° 25, 1697, aged 91; Frances, Oct. y° 26, 1733, aged 80; John, Dec. 27, 1703, aged 13; and Rose, Oct. 30, 1729, aged 36. Here lies Eleanor Noake, the wife of Samuel Noake, gent. daughter of the said Gideon and Frances Pittard, who departed this life April 23, 1767, aged 71."

In the north aisle (formerly the burial-place of the Gerard and Wyndham families) are the following inscriptions on large coarse flat stones, which seem to have been brought from Ham-hill quarry.

"Heere lyeth the body of William Gerard, of Trent, esq; who dyed the ——— of January, anno 1567.

"Heere also lyeth the body of William Gerard, esq; grandchilde to the other William Gerard, who dyed the 1st of May 1604.

"Heere lyeth the body of Ann Gerard, daughter of William Gerard, esq; by Mary his wife, daughter of Sir Christopher Allen, of the Mote in the county of Kent, knt. She was buried the 25th of January 1596.

"Heere lyeth the body of Mary Gerard, the wife of William Gerard, esq; daughter and coheyre of Tristeram Storke, of Trent, esq; who dyed March 18, 1577.

"Heere also lyeth the body of Thomas Gerard, esq; son of William Gerard and Mary his wife. And neere unto him lyeth Isabel his wife, who was daughter and coheyre of Leonard Willoughby, of Toners-Piddle in the county of Dorset, esq."

Against the west wall, at the end of the north aisle, is an ancient handsome mural monument of black and white marble to another William Gerard, most probably the son of the former, with this inscription:—"Gulielmo Gerard, armigero, ex antiqua Gerardorum familia in agro Lancastriensi oriundo, monumentum hoc imposuit uxor ejus mæistissima, filia Christopheri Allen, equitis aurati militis: obiit May 1°, An° Dom. 1604, ætat. vero suæ 52.

On another marble monument:—"Anna uxor Thomæ Gerard, arm. filia Roberti Coker, ar. obiit in partu Junii xxv Añõ Doñ mdcxxxiii, vixit annos xxix diemq; i<sup>m</sup>. Digna hac luce diuturniore, nisi quod luce meliore digna. Vale! nos te eo ordine quo natura



*natura jufferit sequemur. Mors mihi lucrum: vivit post funera virtus. Reliquit quinq; filias superstites, viz. Elizabetham, Annam, Ethelredam, Amiam, & Franciscam, duas mort. & filium unicum."*

Anne, the second daughter of this Thomas and Anne Gerard, marrying Colonel Wyndham, by her the estate came into his family. He was created a baronet by King Charles II. and died in the year 1676. His son, Sir Francis, lies in a vault made for him under the aile, and against the middle of the north wall is an elegant monument of white marble, upon the table of which is the following inscription:

"Here lieth the body of Sir Francis Wyndham, bart. (originally descended from the ancient and honourable family of the Wyndhams of Felbridge in the county of Norfolk). In his younger years he applied himself to arms, and served King Charles II. in the post of a captain of horse. But afterwards he served his country in several parliaments as a member for Ilchester in this county. He married three wives; his first was Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Arthur Onslow, of Clanden in the county of Surrey, by whom he had his only child named Thomas, who dyed before him, leaving a son, now Sir Francis, and a daughter Frances, by his wife Lucy, daughter of Richard Mead, of London, esq. His second wife was Esther, widow of Matthew Ingram, gent.; and his last was dame Henrietta, widow of Sir Richard Newdigate, bart. and daughter of Thomas Wigington, of Ham in the county of Surrey, gent. who survived him. He was the third son of Sir Francis Wyndham of this place, who in consideration of his constant and faithful services to K. Charles the First and Second, in quality of a lieutenant-colonel of horse, but more particularly for his being instrumental in preserving K. Charles the Second in his house here, after the unfortunate battle of Worcester, till his retreat to France, was by him soon after his restoration created a baronet, with a large pension to attend the honour, as a farther token of his royal favour. He had four brothers and five sisters. Gerard died unmarried. Sir Thomas left only one daughter, Anne. Hugh died in Spain unmarried, (having by his valour and conduct raised himself to the post of lieutenant-general of horse) and Edmund left no issue. Two of his sisters Mary and Anne died children. Elizabeth was married to Wm. Harbyn, of Newton in this county, esq. Rachel, who was maid of honour to the princess of Orange, and afterwards of the bed-chamber to her when she was queen, died unmarried: and Frances, who surviv'd him; also died unmarried.

"By the direction of Sir Francis Wyndham's will, this monument was erected to his memory, by his executrix and relict the Lady Henrietta Wyndham, and his executor Wm. James, of Ightham in the county of Kent, esq; who married Anne the sole daughter and heir of the above-mentioned Sir Thomas Wyndham. On which account Sir Francis has entail'd his estate on the issue of the body of Anne James, in case of failure of his own, (they taking the name of Wyndham additionally.)

"Sir Francis Wyndham died March 22, 1715, aged 62 years."

The young Sir Francis mentioned in the inscription died about 12 years old of the small-pox, and his sister Frances, (who married Henry Bromley, esq; afterwards Lord Montfort) having no issue, the family is extinct.

On a stone in the church-yard:—" Beneath lieth the body of the Rev. Mr. Barnabas Smyth, born at Panton in the county of Lincoln, Nov. the 21st, 1692: chosen scholar of C. C. C. Oxon, Aug. the 6th, 1709: nominated to the rectory of this parish Oct. 26, 1732: buried February 9th, 1760. Also Frances his wife, who departed this life Dec. 26th, 1765, in the 67th year of her age,—in hopes of a joyful resurrection: and what she was that day will shew."

On a tomb under the chancel window: " Carolus Gardiner, S. T. B. C. C. C. Oxon. Quondam socius hujus ecclesiæ rector inductus 22 Julij, 1729; obiit 26 Oct. 1732. Ecclesiæ Wellensis Canonicum factum, in ipso pene honoris aditu, mors occupavit."

Mrs. Bridget Gardiner, relict of the Rev. Charles Gardiner, died and was buried in Oxford, in the year 1772. She left to the parish of Trent one hundred pounds, directing the yearly interest to be paid on Easter-Sunday yearly; and divided among six poor men and six poor women who do not receive alms.

She likewise left twenty pounds, the yearly profits whereof are directed to be laid out in repairing and preserving the rails round her husband's grave.

Here is a large yew-tree, the body of which at five feet high, is 12 feet in circumference.

Also an old stone cross, with five rows of steps, the pillar broken off within three feet of the socket.





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THE HUNDRED  
OF  
HUNTSPILL CUM PURITON,

A Small tract of land lying on the river Parret, near its influx into the Bristol Channel, comprehending two parishes, HUNTSPILL, and PURITON; to the former of which manors, the property of the Hundred in ancient times belonged.

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H U N T S P I L L

IS a very large parish twelve miles west from Axbridge, and seven north from Bridgewater. It had its name from *Hun* or *Hune*, a Saxon lord, and from the pill or bay, which is here formed by the conflux of the rivers Brew and Parret, at the mouth whereof there is an ancient farm called to this day *Pill's Mouth*. The river Brew is navigable for vessels of considerable burden up to HIGHBRIDGE, a hamlet so called from the bridge there thrown over it. The beach at Huntspill is a fine sand near a mile broad at low water, bounded on the land side by large sand-banks, raised to prevent the overflowings of the sea. Among the rushes and sedge above high water mark, are vast quantities of beautiful shells of the Wentletrap, snail and Helix kinds. Salmon, plaice, flounders and shrimps are caught on the coast, and the ditches abound with eels, roach and dace.

This parish is five miles and a half in length, two and a half in breadth, and fifteen miles in circumference, exclusive of a small part of it heretofore broken in upon by the sea, and now divided from it by the Parret, and which is therefore rather considered as part of Stoke-Courcy, being subject to the parochial incumbrances, without the advantages of Huntspill.

The whole number of houses contained within the precincts of the parish of Huntspill is about one hundred and forty, and of inhabitants seven hundred and fifty. Most  
of

of the houses are very neat, and in general occupied by their respective owners, many of whom are wealthy graziers. The lands are almost wholly rich pasture and meadow, extremely well cultivated, and the parish is estimated in the king's books at 2000l. per annum, it being one fifth of its net produce.

The town of Huntspill had formerly the privilege of a market, which has long ago been dropt; but there are still three fairs, toll-free, held within the parish, viz. one at Huntspill, June 29; the other two, August 10, and Dec. 17, at Highbridge.

This place is noted in ancient history. Ethelmund, by the concurrence and confirmation of king Offa, gave the manor of *Hunefpulle*, containing five hides, to the church of Glastonbury.\* This property, thus conferred, remained in the possession of that monastery till the Norman Conquest, when King William despoiled it thereof, and gave it to his itinerant attendant Walter de Dowai. It is thus recorded:

“Walter himself holds HONSPIL. Elwacre held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is thirteen carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and five servants, and twenty-one villanes, and five bordars, and seven cottagers, with eleven ploughs. There are one hundred acres of meadow, and two hundred acres of pasture. It was and is worth eight pounds.”<sup>b</sup>

“Walter himself holds HUNESPIL. Alwin held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three virgates of land. The arable is two carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and four servants, and two villanes, and five bordars, and four cottagers, with one plough. There are twenty acres of meadow. It was and is worth twenty shillings.”<sup>c</sup>

This Walter de Dowai was a Norman knight, and of a family which derived their name from the town of Douai in the French Netherlands. Having attended the Conqueror into England, he was rewarded with this and a great number of other manors in this county, where he had his residence. At his death he left issue, a son of his own name, who was seated at Bampton or Baunton in Devonshire, and thence altered his name to De Baunton. Having no male issue, he left all his estates to Julian his only daughter, who became the wife of William Paganel, and invested him with this manor.

Which William Paganel, or, as he was sometimes written, Paynel, by the said Julian his wife, had issue Fulke Paganel, who married Ada, eldest sister and coheir of Gilbert de Abrincis, who was drowned at sea in the year 1172. He had issue by her Adam Paynel, who was lord of Huntspill in the time of Henry III. and died without issue, and William Paynel, who succeeded to the manors of Huntspill and Baunton. This William, by Maud his wife, had several children, (of whom William, Millicent, Alice, and Agnes, died without issue) and Christian, who succeeded to the estate, and was married to Sir Milo Cogan, one of the first Conquerors of Ireland.

To which Sir Milo Cogan, succeeded William, and John, successive lords of Huntspill; the last-mentioned dying seized thereof 9 Edw. I. left a son of his own name heir to his property. This John Cogan was a knight, and was buried at

\* Gulielm. Malmes. Hist. i. 98.

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>c</sup> Ibid.



Huntspill, 30 Edw. I. Thomas his son and heir succeeded, and left issue Richard, who was sixteen years of age at the time of his father's death 8 Edw. II. This Richard married Mary daughter and heir of Sir Richard Wigbere, of Wigborough in this county, with whom he had that manor and divers other large possessions. He died 42 Edw. III. leaving issue by the said Mary Sir William Cogan, knt. his son and heir, who died 6 Ric. II. seized of the manor and advowson of Huntspill. He left issue by Isabel his wife, one son, John, and a daughter, Elizabeth, first married to Sir Fulke Fitzwarren, and secondly to Sir Hugh Courtney, knt.

The said Sir John Cogan dying without issue 12 Ric. II. Elizabeth his sister succeeded to the patrimony, and invested her husband Sir Fulke Fitzwarren with the manors of Huntspill and Wigborough. She had issue by her said husband one son, who was named after his father Fulke, and a daughter, Elizabeth, the wife of Sir Richard Hankford.

Sir Fulke Fitzwarren died without issue, and Elizabeth his sister, the wife of Sir Richard Hankford, succeeded to the estate, and had issue by the said Sir Richard two daughters, Thomafine, the wife of William Bouchier, created Lord Fitzwarren, and Elizabeth, who died without issue.

Which William Bouchier, in right of Thomafine his said wife, became possessed of Huntspill-Cogan, and other manors. He was the second son of William Bouchier earl of Ewe, by Anne, daughter of Thomas of Woodstock duke of Gloucester: he died 9 Edw. IV. leaving issue Fulke Bouchier, lord Fitzwarren, his son and successor.

This Fulke Bouchier lord Fitzwarren married Elizabeth, sister and coheir of John lord Dinham, by whom he had issue John Bouchier lord Fitzwarren, and died 6 Henry VII.

Which John Bouchier lord Fitzwarren was created Earl of Bath 23 Henry VIII. He married Cecily, the only sister of Henry Daubney earl of Bridgwater, by whom he had issue one son John, and two daughters, Elizabeth the wife of Edward Chichester, of Raleigh, esq; and Dorothy, wife of Sir John Fulford. He died 31 Henry VIII.

John Bouchier earl of Bath succeeded his father in this and the other estates, and married first Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Walter Hungerford, by whom he had issue one daughter, Elizabeth. To his second wife he married Eleanor, daughter of George Manners lord Roos, and had issue by her John, Sir George, and Henry; Mary, wife of Hugh Wyatt, of Exeter; and Cecily, wife of Thomas Peyton, customer of Plymouth. His third wife was Margaret, daughter and heir of John Donington, who had before been married, first to Sir Thomas Kitson, of Hengrave in the county of Suffolk; and secondly, to Sir Richard Long, of Cambridgeshire. He had issue by the said Margaret, two daughters, Susan, and Bridget; and died 3 Eliz.

John Bouchier lord Fitzwarren died in the life-time of his father, but left issue, by Frances his wife, a son named William, who succeeded as Lord Fitzwarren and Earl of Bath, as well as to the possession of this manor. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Francis Russel earl of Bedford, by whom he had issue four sons, John, Robert, Francis, who died without issue, and Edward, who succeeded to the title and estate.

Which

Which Edward Bouchier earl of Bath married a sister of Oliver lord St. John of Blettho, earl of Bolingbroke, by whom he had issue three daughters: Anne, the eldest, married Sir Christopher Wrey, bart. and Dorothy was the wife of Thomas Grey, eldest son of Henry the first Earl of Stamford.

Henry Bouchier, uncle to Edward, succeeded as Earl of Bath in 1638; but dying unmarried, the title expired, and the estates were divided between the representatives of the coheiresses of the said Edward.

Accordingly, 36 Car. II. a division of the manor was made between Lord Stamford and Sir Bouchier Wrey, bart. subject to the payment of 48,000*l*. Their representatives, by virtue of a decree in chancery, sold the whole together in 1693 to James Grove, esq; of the Inner Temple, serjeant at law, who, in the course of a few years, sold off, among the leasehold tenants, six hundred acres; and the remainder, in the year 1711, was sold to William Arnold, esq; who in 1723 sold the same to Samuel Cockerell, esq; and he, after disposing of two hundred and fifty acres thereof, left it to his nephew Luke Cockerell, esq; who sold the whole without reserve.

It should be observed that the manor thus deduced from the Norman Conquest, was only a part of the parish of Huntspill; other lords had manerial claims therein from a very early date; and as this lordship had the name of HUNTSPILL-COGAN, from the Cogans its possessors; so there was a HUNTSPILL-MAREYS, HUNTSPILL-DE-LA-HAY, and HUNTSPILL-VERNEY, from its several lords thus denominated.

In the time of King Stephen, Jordan de Marisco, or of the Marsh, probably so titled from the spot of his nativity in this neighbourhood, was lord of a manor in Huntspill, and had a son named William, who inherited the same.<sup>d</sup> To him succeeded Gefferey de Marisco, who was chief justice of Ireland to Henry III. and next William de Marisco, who was owner of this manor, and of the island of Lundy, which he held of the king in chief by the service of the tenth part of a knight's fee. He was also lord of *La Clude*, or Cloud, in the parish of Camely, which he had by inheritance from Alexander de Alneto, lord of the manor of Camely.<sup>e</sup> William de Marisco, son and heir of the said William, died 10 Edw. I.<sup>f</sup> and was succeeded by Herbert de Marisco, or Marays, who 9 Edw. II. was summoned with divers Irish barons to attend the king against the Scots.<sup>g</sup> He died 1 Edw. III. leaving issue Stephen de Mareis heir to his estates. Which Stephen had lands in Ireland; and as such was summoned to attend the king at Westminster 35 Edw. III. to consider of methods to repel the Irish. He was then a knight. He died 47 Edw. III. leaving his estate to Sir James Boteler earl of Ormond, his cousin and next heir, remainder for life to Sir John Trivet, knt. This James earl of Ormond died 7 Henry IV. leaving the manor of Huntspill-Mareys to his son James earl of Ormond, who at his death 31 Henry VI. held besides it the manors of Belluton, Pensford, Brean, Exton, and the island of Steep-Holmes, and the advowson of the church of Brean, leaving James earl of Wiltshire his son and heir.<sup>h</sup> This James being attainted in parliament, his estates became confiscated; and this manor and that of Brean passed into the family of Beecher. In 1590 Henry Beecher,

<sup>d</sup> Cart. Antiq.<sup>e</sup> Ibid.<sup>f</sup> Esc.<sup>g</sup> Acta Publica.<sup>h</sup> Esc.



of London, was lord of Huntspill-Mareys, and from him it descended to Thomas Ansel, esq; who sold two hundred and fifty acres thereof in fee to the lessees; and in 1616, the remaining part, consisting of four hundred and seventy acres, was conveyed to Andrew Henly, esq. From him it descended to his son Robert Henly, esq; and from him to Sir Andrew Henly, bart. who in 1669 sold part of the fee to the several lessees. This sale was productive of a suit in chancery of seven years' continuance; when it was at length decreed, that Eleanor Maundrel and John Bere should confirm the several purchases, and stand seized of the remains of the manor, which is now the property of Richard Gould, esq.

The manor of HUNTSPILL-DE-LA-HAY derived its name from a grange or farm in this parish, called *Delhayes*, consisting in the time of Ric. II. of a capital messuage, two hundred acres of arable land, sixty acres of meadow, and twenty acres of pasture; all which were held by Sir William Cogan of the king in chief. A family of distinction had also their appellation from this spot, and held their lands of the principal lords of Huntspill: they flourished in the reigns of Edw. I. and II. In process of time this manor came to be possessed by the family of Howe, progenitors of Lord Chedworth, and thence passed to the Rodney family. Of late years it was sold off to the lessees by his Grace the Duke of Chandos, the last possessor.

The manor of HUNTSPILL-VERNEY was so denominated from the ancient family of Verney, or Vernai, lords of Fairfield and other manors in this county, to whom it belonged for many generations, and from whom it has descended through the family of Palmer to John Acland, esq; the present possessor.

Another manor called ALSTON, ALLISTON, or ALSTON-MARIS, lies within this parish, and had for its possessor at the time of the Conquest the same lord as Huntspill:

“Rademer holds of Walter [de Dowai] ALSISTUNE. Alwold held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide. The arable is three carucates. In demesne is one carucate, with one servant, and one villane, and four bordars, and three cottagers, having one plough, and forty acres of pasture. It was and is worth twenty shillings.”\*

This manor was likewise held under the family of Cogan by the De Mariscos, lords of Huntspill-Mareys. It was sometime considered as part of the hundred of Bempstone; and did suit and service at that hundred court, till within a few years the leet has been discontinued. In the time of Edw. III. this manor belonged to Thomas de Drokensford, who gave the same to John de Storteforde, clerk, and he conveyed it to Walter Aldebury, clerk; who 44 Edw. III. granted the manor of Allistone to Robert Chedder, esq;† from which family it descended to those of Newton and Griffin, and afterwards became the property of Henry Walrond, esq; then of Thomas White, esq; and now the royalty belongs to Thomas Jeane, esq. According to the rates heretofore made, it contained seven hundred and fifty acres, which are at present mostly in the possession of sundry freeholders.

Sir Raymund de Sully had lands in *Allestone juxta Huntspill* in the time of Edw. III. He bore on his seal barry of six.<sup>1</sup> The witnesses to a deed of this Sir Raymund, dated A. D. 1370, were John Everard of Huntspill, Thomas de Burgh, John de Welton, and John de Marisco.<sup>m</sup>

WITHY in this parish was an ancient manor of the monks of Glastonbury, whose revenues therein were rated in 1293 at 8l. 4s. 9d.<sup>n</sup>

Fulke Paganel, lord of the manor of Huntspill-Cogan, gave the church of Huntspill to the cell of Cluniac monks, which he had founded in the time of William Rufus, at Tickford in Buckinghamshire.<sup>o</sup> This church was valued in 1292 at forty-seven marks.<sup>p</sup>

It is a rectory in the deanery of Poulet, and in the gift of Baliol college in Oxford. The Rev. Mr. White is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to All-Saints, and is a handsome building, composed of a nave, chancel, side aisles, and a tower at the west end.

In a niche in the wall of the south aisle lie the effigies of one of the lords of this manor and his lady; he in armour with an ornamented belt round his body; she in a long loose robe, with close sleeves down to the wrist, and a large hood round her face.

On the north side of the chancel is a mural monument of stone with the following inscription:—"Lege viator, ac luge; sed quisquis es, hosce ne premas cineres; quiescit enim sub hoc lapide quicquid fuit verendum. Gulielmus Fane, Francisci nuper admodum comitis Westmorlandiæ minor natu filius, vir ornatissimæ virtutis, sanæque doctrinæ, sacræ theologiæ doctor, Irenarcha sciens, et serenissimo Regi Carolo II. a sacris; hujus ecclesiæ per triginta (aut circiter) annos rector sedulus; necnon ecclesiæ cathedralis Stî Andreæ in hac Bathon. et Wellen. diocesi canonicus: Postquam beatæ vitæ exemplar et vivendi prescriptum nobis promulgasset, mutavit chorum, altiorem ut capefferet. Bis ut vivat, semel moritur 28<sup>o</sup> die Junii anno ætatis suæ sexagesimo, annoque gratiæ 1679."

"Nulli pietate secunda, hic jacet Maria, ux. Gab. Gladman, gen. et filia dicti Guliel. Fane, D. D. quæ obiit 10<sup>o</sup> Aug. 1716, anno ætat. suæ 61." Arms, *Azure*, three gauntlets *or*, impaling *or* three eagles displayed *gules*.

On the same side of the chancel is a memorial to John Trip, A. M. who died A. D. 1738, aged 58.

On the south side is this inscription:—"Subter jacent reliquiæ sacræ Gulielmi Rodney, de Rodney-Stoke in comitatu Somerset, qui pro tempore sibi assignato, habitus erat corona poetarum dignissimus; et qui in decedentibus rebus ecclesiæ, negotiis animi discutiatus, sponte e variis vitæ miseriis emigravit duodecimo die Junij, anno Domini 1669."

On a flat stone in the floor, are these lines to the memory of the same person, who was the son of Sir John Rodney, knt. and supposed to be great grandfather to the present admiral Lord Rodney:

<sup>1</sup> Seals from ancient deeds. <sup>m</sup> Cart. Ant. <sup>n</sup> Taxat. Temp. <sup>o</sup> Mon. Angl. i. 912. <sup>p</sup> Taxat. Spirit.



" If ye knew who lay here,  
You'd surely ha' beene shaping ideas rare;  
And sweare you'd seen witt, loyal valour, and true poesie,  
Congeal'd with sorrow to a Niobe;  
And in that drooping statue to appear,  
His sad lamentor, and his sepulcher.  
'Tis Rodney, know! whose name has here surviv'd  
William of Normand, Noll the regicide.  
Conquer'd those conquerors; only to death  
(As they have done before) did yield his breath."

On another grave-stone:

" Beauty, feature, witt, and grace,  
Lie interred within this place:  
Envy cannot speake him bad,  
Who's with virtues richly clad;  
Nor profane may he be thought,  
Who to know his name was taught.

*Fane* in's sence a church declares,  
And a sacred title bears;  
Which is (if you'll make the most).  
Temple of the Holy Ghost."

" Henry Fane, sonne of William Fane, D.D. rector here, and Frances his wife, dyed  
the 22d day of March, A. D. 1675."

On the next stone:

" Here lies a child, whose death hath set us right  
In the old story of our guardian knight.  
For who dare say the champion smells o' the forge,  
Since we are all assur'd there's a St. George,  
Who ne'er was vanquish'd, nor o'ercome;  
For he is still alive by a synecdoche.

" George Fane, the son of William Fane, D.D. rector here, and Frances his wife,  
died the 29th day of March 1670."

On a frame in the north aile is the following account of benefactions to this parish:

" James Comer, late of Chedder in this county, yeoman, by his will gave 20l. to  
the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of this parish, upon this trust, that they  
perpetually keep the same out at use on sufficient security; and at their discretion, dis-  
tribute the yearly interest thereof for ever to the poor of this parish, having no relief.  
He died June 22, 1733.

" Also Mr. James Saunders, of this parish, by his will gave 5l. the interest thereof to  
be distributed on Christmas-day for ever by the churchwardens and overseers at their

discretion, in ten equal loaves of bread, to ten poor persons of this parish having no relief. He died Oct. 7, 1743.

“Also Mr. William Jeffery by will gave 10l. the interest of the same to be distributed by the churchwardens and overseers on Christmas-day for ever, at their discretion, to the poor of this parish having no relief. He died Nov. 30, 1760.

## P U R I T O N,

Anciently called PERITONE, or the Town on the Parret;

**S**TANDS southeast from Huntspill, in a low and damp situation, on the edge of the moors and marsh.

In early days the manor of Peritone belonged to the church of St. Peter at Rome, as we find it recorded in the Norman survey:

“The church of the blessed apostle St. Peter at Rome holds of the King, PERITONE. Queen Eddid held it in the time of King Edward. There are six hides; but it gelded only for five hides. The arable is twelve carucates. Thereof in demesne are three hides, and there are two carucates, and four servants, and eleven villanes, and four cottagers, with six ploughs. There are one hundred and fifty acres of meadow, and one hundred and fifty acres of pasture. It yields per annum twelve pounds.”<sup>a</sup>

It is not altogether evident by what means the Romish church lost the possession of this estate; but we find it soon after the Conquest annexed to the barony of Stowey; and in the time of Henry I. held as parcel thereof by Robert de Candos, a Norman, who gave the church here to the priory founded by him at Goldclive in the county of Monmouth. To this Robert succeeded Walter de Candos, whose daughter Maud carried it with other large estates into the family of Columbers, by her marriage with Sir Philip de Columbers, knt. From which family it passed to that of Audley, and from thence to the crown. 36 Henry VIII. it was granted to William Goddinge, alias Goodwin; and 24 Eliz. the manors of Puriton, and *Downend*, (now a hamlet in this parish) were granted to the Earl of Hertford, in the schedule of whose estates Peryton is set down at the annual value of 26l. 5s. 10d.<sup>b</sup> It afterwards became the property of the family of Finch, from whom it has descended to Lady Ailesford the present possessor.

The hamlet of DOWNEND belonged at the Conquest to Walter de Dowai, to whom it was given by King William the Conqueror:

“Walter holds one virgate of land which is called DONEHAM. Algar held it in the time of King Edward. This is [parcel] of that land which the King gave to him between the two waters [the rivers Brew and Parret.] It is worth twelve pence.”<sup>c</sup>

It went afterwards with Puriton. In this place stood an ancient chapel.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> MS. Valor.

<sup>c</sup> Lib. Domesday.



There was a church at this period in the village of Puriton, to which belonged three virgates of land. The arable consisted of one carucate, and the whole was rated at twenty shillings.<sup>d</sup> The rectory of this church was valued in 1292 at twelve marks, and the vicarage at six marks four shillings: out of the former the prior of Goldclive received a pension of two shillings and seven-pence.<sup>e</sup> It was appropriated to the monastery of Tewksbury, and in the year 1450, by an ordination of bishop Beckington, it was decreed that the vicar should have a house built in the farm called the Parson's Close, opposite the south door of the parish church of Puriton; and all the close called the *Parson's-Close*, adjoining to the said vicarage, together with two acres of meadow, one lying in the *North-mead*, and the other in the *Fistylmede*; and also four acres of pasture called the *Vicary's-more* near *Oxbay*; as also all small tithes within the same parish, whether of lamb, wool, milk, calves, flax, hemp, pigeons, pigs, geese, chicken, and apples, excepting the small tithes of three tenements belonging to the abbot and convent; together with the tithes of mills in the same parish. The vicar to receive from the the said abbot and convent 26s. 3d. per annum, and sustain the underwritten incumbrances; viz. repair the chancel, find bread and wine for the altar, and two processional wax-candles for the high altar; pay his quatum for procurations and synodals; and to the archdeacon of the place 10s. 4d. per annum. The said vicar shall also find a dean rural for the deanery of Poulet, as often as shall be found meet. And the said vicar shall also serve the chapel of *Downend*, situated within the bounds and limits of the said parish of Puriton; and support all charges incumbent on the same. The above ordination was confirmed by John the then abbot, and the convent of Tewksbury.<sup>f</sup>

33 Eliz. the rectory and the advowson of the vicarage were granted to the dean and canons of the free chapel royal of St. George at Windsor, who are the present patrons of this benefice. The Rev. Mr. Wilnot is the present incumbent.

The church, dedicated to St. Michael, is a Gothick edifice eighty feet long, and twenty-six feet wide, with a low clumsy spire, containing five bells and a clock.

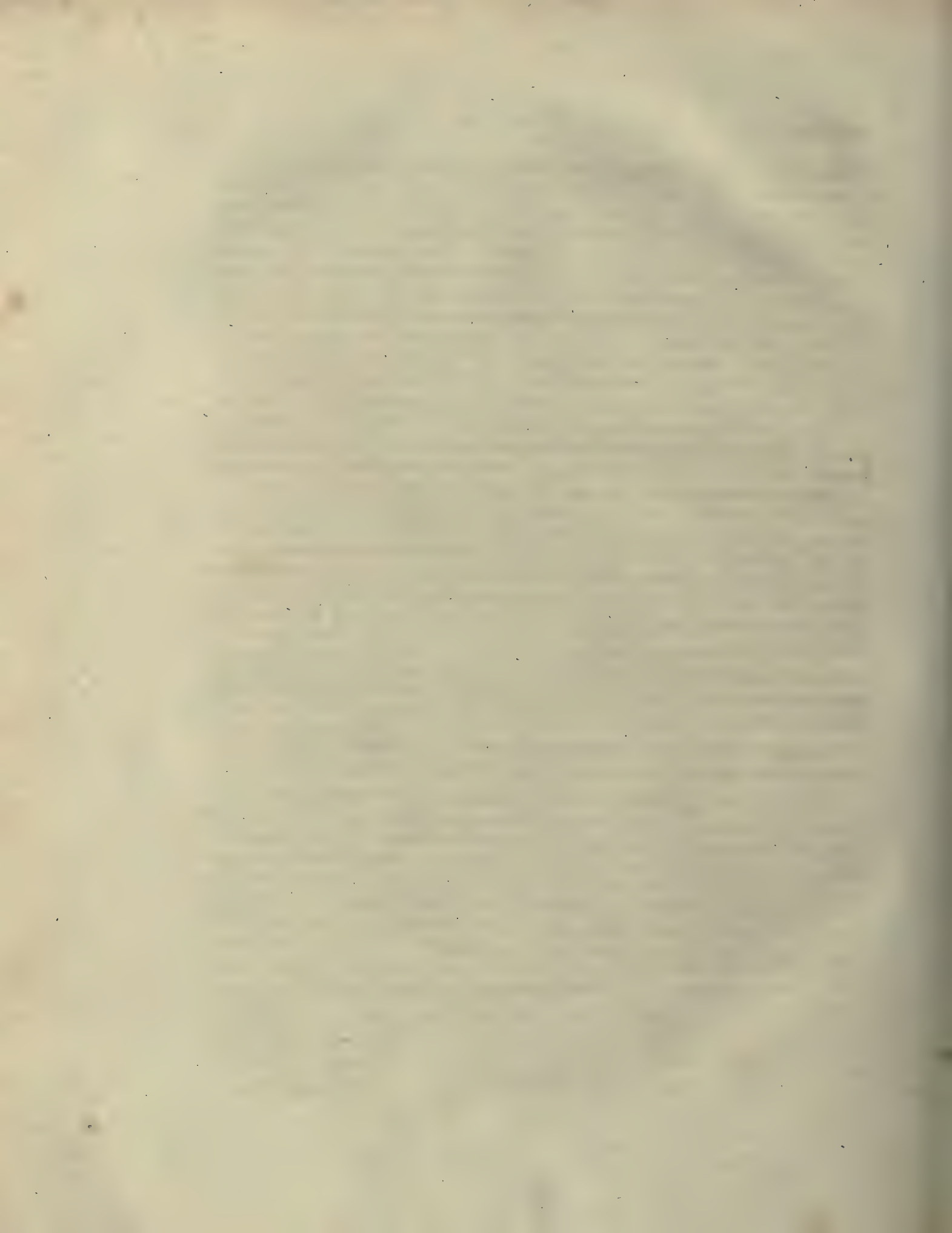
On the south wall a black stone is inscribed as follows:—"Subtus jacent exuvie Johannis Gouldam, cui morum amœnitas, animus propositi tenax, ac veræ religionis amor, bonis cum queis innotuit dilectum reddidit et colendum. Ingenij insuper acumine varios feliciter dignoscens morbos, et medendi arte penitus instructus, optatus inclaruit medicus. Dies ille noctesque nunquam non paratus pauperibus blandam porrexit manum, cum ditiores ejus ambierunt opem. Tam chari capitis desiderio quis finis luctus? omnibus eheu! flebilis omne in ævum. Pallida mors nunc magis horrenda appares;—de Æsculapio altero agens triumphum."

<sup>d</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>e</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

<sup>f</sup> Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.









# THE HUNDRED

O F

# KEYNSHAM

**L**IES on the northeaft side of the county, between the hundred of Bath-Forum on the east, and the hundreds of Chew, and Hareclive and Bedminster, on the west and southwest. The river Avon here divides this county from that of Gloucester.

In the time of William the Conqueror, this hundred was thus surveyed:

“ IN CANESHAM hundred are one hundred and four hides. Thence the King has  
 “ received for his geld fifteen pounds for fifty hides; and the King and his Barons have  
 “ in their demefne thirty hides and a half, of which the King in his demefne fifteen  
 “ hides, and the Bishop of Coutances three hides and three yard-lands, and the Abbot  
 “ of Glastonbury four hides and a half, and the Abbot of Bath five hides and one  
 “ yard-land; and the Priest of Canesham one hide, and Alvaricus of Canesham one  
 “ hide; and for seventeen hides and a half held by the King’s villanes at Canesham,  
 “ the King has received no geld; and half a hide which William Hubert holds of the  
 “ Bishop of Coutances not yet accounted to the King’s rate; and one hide and a half  
 “ which Herald holds of Alured not paid; and one hide and a half which Nicholas de  
 “ Alvered holds, not paid; and three hides which Roger de Stanton holds, not paid.  
 “ From this hundred there is still coming to the King for geld seven pounds and  
 “ twelve-pence.”<sup>a</sup>

14 Henry II. this hundred was fined ten marks for a murder not noticed in the courts.<sup>b</sup>

Great part of this district was anciently a royal chace; and Leland in his Itinerary tells us, that there was in his time a park of the King’s walled with stone hard without Keynsham.<sup>c</sup> 8 Henry III. Ralph de Winton, governor of Bristol castle, was constituted by the King warden of the forest and chace of Keynsham.<sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Exeter Domeſday.

<sup>b</sup> Mag. Rot. 14 Henry II. Rot. 10. b.

<sup>c</sup> Lel. Itin. vii. 104.

<sup>d</sup> Pat. 8 Hen. III. p. i. m. 2.

## K E Y N S H A M

**I**S a market town situated on the southern bank of the river Avon, five miles south-east from Bristol, seven northwest from Bath, and in the great turnpike-road between those cities. It consists principally of one street, which is nearly a mile in length from east to west. The river Chew runs through the east end of the town, and falls into the Avon at the county bridge, which is of stone, and consists of fifteen arches: another bridge crosses the Chew in the road to Bath. The tide from Bristol comes up the Avon to this parish, and in the spring sometimes brings up large quantities of that small fish called elvers, which are noted by Camden as a curiosity,<sup>a</sup> but now reckoned common. On this river there are considerable large brass and wire mills; there is also a steel mill, and a cotton mill. There was formerly a considerable woollen manufacture carried on here, but it is now entirely dropt; many of the poor however are still employed in spinning for the Bradford, Trowbridge, and Shepton clothiers. Great quantities of the herb called Woad (the ancient *Glastum*, once peculiar to this county) are raised here for the purposes of dying.<sup>b</sup> And the parish likewise has long been famous for the prolifick growth of the *Percepier*, or *Parsley-Piert*, said to be a specificck in all urinary obstructions. In the south part of the parish rises a spring, called *Chartswell*, which forms a rivulet, and traversing the Bath road, mixes with the Avon west of Saltford. The market here is on Thursday; and there are two fairs annually, viz. March 24, and August 15.

It has always been the popular opinion that Keynsham derived its name from one *Keyna*, a British virgin, who lived about the year of Christ 490, and according to Capgrave, a writer of the fourteenth century, was daughter of Braganus, prince of that province in Wales which from him was afterwards called *Brecknockshire*. When this lady arrived at years of maturity, she attracted many admirers, and many noble personages sought her in marriage: but she was deaf to all their overtures, having consecrated her virginity by a perpetual vow; for which cause she was denominated by the Britons *Keyn-Wyryf*, or *Keyna the Virgin*. At length she determined to forsake her native country, and seek some desert place where to indulge in private her religious contemplations. Directing her journey beyond the Severn, she met with a certain

<sup>a</sup> Britannia in Somersetshire.

<sup>b</sup> Hearne, in his introduction to the history of *Adam de Domerham*, p. 87, has given us the following old recipe for making woad:

“ In the mounthe of Marche take thy sede, and some hit in goude londe wel y rakyd, and clene, and wan hit ys ground ~~ALL~~ pnychys longe, than rype hit, and grynd hit smal, and make halle hereof, as moche as a berthynge lobe, and lete ham dry a pon an hurdel in the sonne, and than grynd ham a zen smale in to pouder, and than spste hit thorwe a sinale ryddprue, and the grete there of grynde hit a zen, and spst hit a zen as ze dyde a sere, and than ley al thy pouder a pon a sapre payyd flore a brode halfore tpyke, and thare pon cast water, and turne and wende hit with a shovyl, tyl hit be nothyr wete, nothyr dry, hote by twyxt to, and than ley hit up to an hype, as pe wold malt, tyl hit take hete, as hote as pe may suffer youre hand thare in. And than ley hit a brede, and lete the heyre passe away there of, and than ley hit to gedyr a gen to an hype, tyl hit be as hote as hit was; and than every day do in the same wyse, tyl hit wol take no more here, and than hit most be led abroad a gen apon a sapre payyd flour, and dry hit with turnyng with a shovyl every ap, tyl hit be dry, and than hit ys ful mate to go to the hofefade, and to dry goude Bluwe.”



woody place in these parts, and made her request to the prince of the country that she might be permitted to serve God in that spot of solitude and retirement. The prince informed her he was ready to grant her petition; but that the place so swarmed with serpents, that neither man nor beast could live therein; to which the virgin replied, that she firmly trusted she should be able to drive the venomous brood out of all that country. Hereupon the place was granted her, and by her prayers all the snakes and vipers were converted into stones. And to this day (continues *Capgrave's* Translator) the stones in that country resemble the windings of serpents through all the fields and villages, as if they had been so framed by the hand of the engraver.\*

In this manner the monkish enthusiasts of former times accounted for that wonderful *lusus naturæ*, the *Cornua Ammonis*, or snake-stones, (as they are vulgarly called) which abound in the quarries of this parish, and many whereof are stuck up in the walls of the houses. They are found from a quarter of an inch to upwards of two feet in diameter.

There are others also that pretend this place obtained its appellation from the *Cangi*, a people who inhabited these parts; but this etymology is equally uncertain as the other is absurd; nor can we trace its history any further back than the Norman Conquest, when it had the following description:

“ The King holds CAINESHAM. In the time of King Edward it gelded for fifty  
“ hides. The arable is one hundred carucates. Thereof are in demesne fifteen hides  
“ and a half, and there are ten carucates, and twenty servants, and twenty-five coliberts,  
“ and seventy villanes, and forty cottagers, with sixty-three ploughs. There are six  
“ mills of sixty shillings rent, and one hundred acres of meadow, and one hundred  
“ acres of pasture. Wood one mile long, and as much broad. It renders one hundred  
“ and eight pounds by tale. It did render fourscore pounds.

“ To this manor belong eight burgeses in BADE, [Bath]. They pay five shillings  
“ per annum.

“ Of those fifty hides Earl Eustace holds four hides in BELETONE, [Belluton] and  
“ Alured of him. Tovi held them for a manor in the time of King Edward. There  
“ is in demesne one carucate and a half, with one servant, and five villanes, and two  
“ cottagers, with two ploughs. There is a mill of fifteen shillings rent, and twenty-  
“ two acres of meadow, and twenty acres of pasture. Wood three furlongs long, and  
“ two furlongs broad. It was worth three pounds, now four pounds.

“ Of the same land of this manor, Roger holds ten hides in STANTONE [Stanton-  
“ Drew]. He has there in demesne one carucate, and fifteen villanes, and thirteen  
“ cottagers, having seven ploughs. There is a mill of ten shillings rent, and fifteen  
“ acres of meadow. Pasture four furlongs long, and one furlong and a half broad, and  
“ as much wood. It is worth one hundred shillings.

“ Of the same land the bishop of Coutances holds half a hide, and there has half a  
“ carucate. It is worth five shillings. Ulward held it, and it could not be alienated  
“ from the manor.

\* *Capgrave in Vita S. Keynæ. Cressy's Church History, &c.*

“ The wife of the said Ulward holds one hide of the aforesaid fifty hides, and has there four ploughs, with three servants, and three villanes, and four cottagers. There are twelve acres of meadow, and four acres of coppice wood. It was and is worth four pounds.

“ Aluric holds of the same land one hide, which Ulmar held in the time of King Edward, and could not be separated from the manor. There is one plough, and seventeen acres of meadow, and two acres of pasture. It is worth twenty shillings.”<sup>d</sup>

In succeeding times this great manor became a member of the honour of Gloucester, and was held by the Earls thereof till the year 1170, when William earl of Gloucester having, at the request of his son Robert on his death-bed, founded in the town of Keynsham an abbey of Black Canons, which he dedicated to the honour of God, the blessed Virgin Mary, and St. Peter and St. Paul, endowed the same with this whole manor and hundred; which donation was confirmed to the abbey by Gilbert de Clare, a succeeding Earl of Gloucester. King Edw. II. in the 11th year of his reign, ratified the grant made by William earl of Gloucester, of the manor of Keynsham, with the church and chapels thereto belonging; and the village of Filton, Chewton, and Charleton, *inter alia*; and four shillings rent of land of the gift of Thomas de Bayes in the parish of Backwell. King Edw. III. in the tenth year of his reign, reciting the above confirmation, further confirmed it. Besides these, various other possessions were added to this monastery by different benefactors, insomuch that at its suppression the yearly revenues thereof were valued at 419l. 14s. 3d. The abbots were summoned to the convocation: their names were,

William, who presided in 1175.

George de Epton, 1213.

Gilbert, 1274.

Nicholas de Taunton, 1322, 1335.

John de Bradford was confirmed Feb. 3, 1348.

Thomas, 1396. He was summoned to the convocation Nov. 9, 1416.

Walter Bekkensfield was summoned to the council of Florence, April 20, 1438. He resigned in December 1455.

Thomas Tyler succeeded the same year, at whose election there were fifteen monks resident in the convent. He occurs abbot in 1463.

John Graunt was elected in 1493.

Philip de Keynsham succeeded in 1499. He died in 1505.

William Rolfe was elected April 8, 1506. He was summoned to the convocation in 1515.

John Stoneston<sup>e</sup> was abbot in 1526. This John was the last abbot of the monastery, and with William Herne, prior, John Given, sub-prior, John Arnold, and twelve others, subscribed to the King's supremacy Aug. 18, 1534; after which, viz. Jan 23, 1539, he with ten monks surrendered the convent to the crown, and had a pension of

<sup>d</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>e</sup> So Archer; but Willis says Stourton.



sixty pounds per annum assigned him for life. In 1553 there remained in charge 21l. 12s. in annuities, and the following pensions, viz. To John Horne 9l. William Sybbott, 6l. 13s. 4d.; John Arnold 6l.; Thomas Bode 5l. 6s. 8d.; John Browne 5l. 6s. 8d.; John Gifford 5l. 6s. 8d.; Thomas Parker 5l. 6s. 8d.; John Partrydge 5l.; and to Richard Adamps 2l.<sup>f</sup>

None of the buildings of the abbey, which are said to have been large and grand, are now remaining. In the abbey-church, which stood southeast of the present parish church, were buried William earl of Gloucester, the founder, who died in 1173, and Robert his son, who died in his father's life-time; as also divers others of the same family. Jasper duke of Bedford, by his will dated 15 Dec. 11 Henry VII. bequeathed his body to be buried in this monastery, and a handsome tomb to be made for him, whereon to be expended one hundred marks; appointing that certain of his lordships and lands lying within the counties of Nottingham, Derby, and Warwick, of the yearly value of forty pounds, should be amortised for the finding of four priests to sing perpetually in this monastery for the welfare of his soul, and for the soul of his father; as also for the souls of Catherine (sometime queen of England) his mother; Edmund earl of Richmond his brother; and the souls of all other his predecessors. And that upon the day of his interment there should be distributed to every poor man and woman, that would accept it, two-pence a piece.<sup>g</sup> Many of the Berkeley family were also buried here, and for several of them obits were regularly observed. In the latter end of the last century three effigies of abbots were dug up out of the conventual cemetery, and carried away to adorn some neighbouring garden.<sup>h</sup>

Near the scite of the abbey-house was built a superb and elegant seat, sometime occupied by Colonel Bridges, and after his death, by the Duke of Chandos; but the fabrick being suffered to get out of repair, and the family seldom residing there, it was pulled down in the year 1776; and about the same time the ruinous remains of the old abbey, about one hundred yards behind the house, were dug up to level the ground, when many monumental stones were discovered.

Immediately after the dissolution King Henry VIII. 5 July 1535, demised and let to farm the scite of the abbey of Keynsham to John Panter, for a term of twenty-one years, together with a close called *Covent-Orchard*, consisting of fifteen acres, at a yearly rent of six shillings and eight-pence; the tenant to repair the houses and buildings. The same king settled the manor of Keynsham on Catherine Parre his last queen, who survived him, and was afterwards married to Sir Thomas Seymour, lord high admiral of England. She died in 1548. After which King Edw. VI. by patent dated 12 May 1550, granted the manor and hundred of Keynsham, and the parsonage and the church of Keynsham, with the manors of Filton, alias Whitchurch, Charleton, and Chewton; the rectory and church of Brislington; the chapel of St. Anne at Brislington; as also the scite and the chapel of the manor of Keynsham, and all tithes belonging to the several manors and churches abovementioned, to Sir John St. Loe, knt. for the term of sixty years.

<sup>f</sup> Willis's Hist. of Abbies, ii. 198.

<sup>g</sup> Dugd. Bar. ii. 242.

<sup>h</sup> Notes by Savage, 1692.

This lease was soon after in part given up, and Edw. VI. in the sixth year of his reign, A. D. 1552, in consideration of the sum of 922l. 2s. 2½d. granted to Thomas Bridges, esq; all those farms, fee-farms, tenements, and hereditaments, known by the names of *Estover* and *Westover*, with rights and appertenances in the parish of Keynsham, lately belonging to the monastery there; and all houses, barns, &c. thereto belonging, and commons of pasture on the downs of Estover and Westover. Also all that fee-farm of Stockwood, &c. Also the rectory and church of Keynsham, and right of patronage of the same, lately belonging to the said monastery; and all tithes called the *Strewe-Tything*. Also all houses, lands, barns, tithes, glebes, tithes of grain and hay, and all other tithes, as well as oblations and profits, belonging to the said rectory. Also all that scite or house of the late monastery, land, soil, &c. thereto belonging. Also all that tenement called *Newycke*, with its appertenances, situated near the late chapel of *St. Anne of Bristleton*, and all houses, gardens, and profits belonging to the said messuage of *Newycke*. Also all the chapel of *St. Anne* aforesaid, and the church-yard wherein it was situated, and all rents and profits belonging to the said messuage, chapel, and church-yard. Also all that wood or grove called *Hamclyffe-Wood*, lying near the Avon in the parish of West-Hannam in the county of Gloucester, lately belonging to the said monastery; also all underwood, trees, &c. in *Hamclyffe-Wood*; also all that close of land called *Cofyner's Lease*, under Warley-wood, within the parish of Keynsham, and all trees and profits belonging to the said close. Also all those twelve waggon-loads of fire-wood, annually to be taken out of *Filwood*, and to be carried by the farmer of Filton near Whitchurch to the messuage of *Newycke*, at the reasonable summons of the possessor of the said messuage, annually, and at the fit and proper time. With all woods, lands, rents, reversions, &c. to the said Thomas Bridges, as were usually enjoyed by the said monastery; EXCEPT out of the said grant the lead and bells in and upon the scite of the said monastery, reserved to the King and his heirs; one close called *Cofyner's close* in Filton nigh Whitchurch, and one other close called the *Cowe-Lease*, and one underwood called *Ilfing's-Grove*, and one other close called *Broad-Meadow* in Chewton; as also the tithes of Chewton, Charleton, and Whitchurch; all which were let by the King by lease for a term of life or years.

This Thomas Bridges, to whom the above grant of Keynsham was made, was the second son of Sir Giles Bridges, of Coberley in the county of Gloucester, and brother of Sir John Bridges, created Baron Chandos, of Sudley-Castle in the county of Gloucester, April 8, 1554;—a family which derived their origin from a younger branch of the old Montgomeries, lords of Brugge-Castle in Shropshire, whence they obtained their name. The said Thomas Bridges was of the court of Henry VIII. and one of those who attended at that King's funeral, bearing the dragon standard between two serjeants at arms with their maces. He was sheriff of Gloucestershire 3 Edw. VI. and in the time of Q. Mary was an officer of the tower under his brother Sir John Bridges lord Chandos. By his last will and testament, bearing date Oct. 18, 1559, he bequeathed towards the reparation of the bridge and causeway of Keynsham 40l. with as much stone of the late abbey-church there, as might be needful for the repair of the said bridge and church, provided it should be repaired within two years after his decease; and in default thereof the 40l. to be distributed among the poor of the town  
of



of Keynsham. To Anne his wife, daughter of John Wyndham, of Orchard-Wyndham, esq; he bequeathed for the term of her life, his house of Keynsham, (formerly the abbey) with the site of the said house, and all other houses appertaining thereto, as also the grange of Estover and Westover, and the farm of Stockwood near the town of Keynsham.

His Grace the present Duke of Chandos is the representative of this ancient family; many of whose monuments, setting forth their characters and descents, remain in the parish church, where they had their sepulture.

With regard to the future possessors of the royalties appertaining to this parish, King James I. by letters patent bearing date March 6, 1613, the 11th year of his reign, granted the manor and hundred of Keynsham to Anne Whitmore, of London, widow: in whose family it continued till lately purchased of them by Edward Lyne, M. D. father of Edward Lyne, esq; the present possessor, who holds court-leet and baron, and a court every three weeks for the recovery of small debts under the sum of forty shillings contracted within the hundred.

Within the parish, and nearly south from the town of Keynsham, is a hamlet called from it CHEWTON-KEYNSHAM, which at the time of the Conquest was a member of the great manor of Keynsham, and was afterwards annexed to the abbey. After the dissolution it was granted to Clarke, and passing into the family of Popham, was by them sold in 1766 to Thomas Lediard, esq; the present possessor.

The church of Keynsham was appropriated to the abbey, and with the chapel of Chewton, was valued in 1292 at fifty marks, the vicarage at one hundred shillings.<sup>1</sup> The living is vicarial, and lies in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster. The Duke of Chandos is the patron, and the Rev. Mr. Jones the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. John Baptist, stands in the middle of the town, and is a large and very handsome edifice, consisting of a nave, chancel, and two side aisles, with a lofty tower at the west end, containing eight bells.

The chancel belongs to the Duke of Chandos, and contains the family vault of the Bridges, and many curious monuments.

On the north side of the chancel is an ancient mural monument of stone, supported by a tomb about five feet high, on which, under a double arch, lies the effigies of Henry Bridges, esq; in armour, his feet supported by a dragon couchant, with the head turned back and mouth open, in the attitude of seizing his leg. His neck is encompassed with a large ruff, and his hands placed together in a suppliant posture over his breast. Above is the following inscription:

“Hic jacet sub hoc tumvlo corpus Henrici Bridges, armigeri, qui mortem obiit decimo-quarto die mensis Aprilis Anno Domini 1587.” Arms, (cut in stone) 1. On a cross a leopard's head: Bridges. 2. A pile: Chandos. 3. A fesse between three martlets. 4. Bridges.

<sup>1</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

On the fouth wall is a mural monument of white marble, inscribed;—" To the religious memorie of Mrs. Phillip Bridges, wife of Edward Bridges, esq; and beloved daughter of Sir George Speke, knight of the honourable order of the Bath, who died the 6th day of December 1628.; her age 34.

" Here under buried lyeth, but lives above,  
A female Joseph for her father's love;  
Loving and loved of her beloved mate,  
His care-away, and stay unto his state;  
Whom winter's chill that all things elce decaies  
Nipt off before the autumn of her daies;  
Seven buddes she left behind, her fruits of grace  
Are with Her gon vnto the heavenly place,  
Where we which now do part with grief, with joy shall meet  
When God shall raise up us, and tread death under feet."

Arms: On one side of the monument, *Argent*, on a cross *fable*, a leopard's head *or*: Bridges. On the other, *Argent*, two bars *fable*, over all an eagle displayed with two necks *gules*: Speke.

On the same side of the chancel is a superb mural monument of stone of three parts, viz. In the center, within a hollow arched nich 4 feet wide, and 9 high, is the effigies of Sir Thomas Bridges, knt. kneeling on a cushion. He is dressed in a loose gown with long hanging cuffs which reach his knees, and a robe flowing behind lined with white. On his ancle is a large spur, and on his foot a square-toed white shoe with a very high red heel. His long curling hair flows on his shoulders. On his left hand, which is a little extended forward, hang the ribband of the order; and at his side are the remains of a sword. From his breast hang the insignia. In the top, within the hollow of the cove, is a fine group of clouds, from which projects a figure crowned with gold, representing an angel with a trumpet in his hand, the upper part of which is in his mouth, and from the lower part issues a label with this inscription:

" Awake thou that sleepest, arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee life."

Beneath the effigies is the following inscription:—" To the memory of Sir Thomas Bridges, knight of the noble order of the Bath, son of Sir Thomas Bridges, of Keynsham, knt. and of Anna, one of the daughters and heirs of Sir Edward Rodney, of Rodney-Stoke in this county, knt. who by his father was descended from the right honourable and most ancient familie of the Lords Shandos, barons of Sudley-castle in the county of Gloucester; and by his mother from the illustrious dukes of Norfolk and Somersett. He received his honour on the 19th of April in the yeare of our Lord 1661, and on the 23d of the same moneth attended at the coronation of his Majesty King Charles the Second. And on Saturday the first of June in the same year 1661, hee exchanged his transitory for an eternal weight of glory, and in hopes of a glorious reunion with his immortal soul. Neare unto this place resteth his earthly and mortal part.

Reader



"Reader, if thou haste ought that's deare,  
 Express 't by thy compassion here,  
 Soe may noo force of destiny  
 Cause future floweings from thine eye;  
 Know that the neighbouring earth enshrines  
 The casket of a gemme divine;  
 Nature on one all sweetness plac'd,  
 T'other embellished was by grace;  
 Of both the full perfections join'd,  
 Beautyes and virtues rays combined,  
 A peerless brightness to compose,  
 Which death ecclips'd ev'n as it rose;  
 And rend'ring it as short as bright,  
 Left us envelop'd in an endless night.  
 In summe there lye his parents worthy chief  
 Delight and hopes, their greatest joy and grief.  
 Christ was his life, who taught him soone to dye,  
 And gave by death a blest eternity."

Under the second and third parts of this monument, to the right and left of the above, are two angels in fine white drapery, with golden crowns on their heads, each of them holding a crown in one hand, and pointing with the other hand to the label issuing from the trumpet. Their faces are towards the effigy, and they seem waiting for the command to crown him. Above their heads are fine rich cornices and pediments supported by two black projecting and detached twisted columns, and terminated by two stone statues. Underneath these angels are the arms, viz. 1. Bridges, impaling Speke. 2. Or, three eagles displayed *gules*, Rodney; impaling, *argent*, three cinquefoils *gules*.

To the right of the above is another elegant mural monument of red and white marble, terminated by a flaming urn. On an oval black tablet encompassed with foliage and palm branches, with a weeping cherub on each side, is the following inscription:—"To the deare memory of Anna, daughter and coheir of Sir Edward Rodney, knt. of Rodney-Stoke in this county, and beloved wife of the honourable Sir Thomas Bridges, of Kainsham. She was truly pious to God, charitable to the poor, loving to all. She left this life, in hopes of a glorious resurrection, the 4th of April 1705." Arms, Bridges impaling Rodney.

On the north side of the chancel is a neat mural monument of white marble, with a coved pediment terminated by three urns. On each side are weeping cherubs. On the tablet is this inscription:—"H. S. E. Thomas Bridges, eques, antiqua generosorum familia, proceribus etiam fœcunda, oriundus: cui clarum Rodneiorum nomen et sanguinem, hærede in matrimonium receptâ, feliciter adjunxit virtutis, eruditionis, prudentiæ specimen egregium: Regi optimo Carolo primo in rebus difficillimis (non sine gravi patrimonij detrimento) fidelis ac utilis. Restituto Carolo secundo fortunastam honeste diminutas, homo quod satis erat frugi, industria et prudentia, non minus honeste reparavit.

reparavit. Ecclesijs ornandis, pauperibus alendis, pueris erudiendis, abdite, ample tamen, et frequenter, beneficus: moriens, parochias de Keynsham, Covent-Garden, Rodney-Stoke, Batcomb, &c. munificentiae testes, reliquit. In ædibus suis, huic ecclesiae proximis, Feb. die xx<sup>o</sup> An<sup>o</sup> D<sup>ni</sup> m<sup>o</sup>c<sup>o</sup>c<sup>o</sup>vi, ætatis suæ xc, obiit. Patri optimo, Anna Powell, filia natu, (non tamen affectu) secunda, hoc monumentum, M. P."—Arms, Bridges and Rodney.

Near to this, and on another mural monument of grey marble, the cornice of which is supported with two columns, round and swelling in the middle, and terminated with Corinthian capitals gilt, is the following:—"To the memory of George Bridges, of Lincolnes-Inn, esq; the son of Edward Bridges, esq; who dyed the first of Jan. 1677. To the memory of Katharine Bridges, the daughter of Edward Bridges, esq; a woman truly eminent in her duty to God and love to her neighbours, and charitye to the poore and fatherless, who left this life the 15th of April 1687."

On the same wall is a rich monument of fine clouded marble, in the swelling tablet of which, surrounded with a festoon curtain with gilt fringe and tassels, is inscribed,—"Infra jacet corpus Harry Bridges, armigeri, filii Thomæ Bridges, equitis aurati, et Annæ uxoris; vir patriæ suæ verus amator, qui annos ultra quinquagenarios magistratus officiis fideliter functus est. Multis peregrinationibus varias acquisivit linguas, Gallicæ, Hispanicæ, et Italicæ, apprime sciens. In omnibus denique egregie doctus, prompto et faceto ingenio, vixit undecimo die Octobris 1728, ætat. 81." Arms, Bridges, impaling *ermine*, two piles *sable*.

On a flat stone under the communion-table:—"Here lyeth the body of Charles Bridges, esq; son of Sir Thomas Bridges and Anne his wife; who dyed the 6th day of January 1668."

On the next stone:—"Here lyeth the body of Edward Bridges, son of Sir Thomas Bridges and Anne his wife; who dyed the first day of November 1678."

On an adjacent stone:—"Here lyeth the Lady Anna Bridges, wife of Sir Thomas Bridges, of Keynsham."

And on another next to it:—"Here lyeth Sir Thomas Bridges, knt. of Keynsham."

On the next stone:—"Here lyeth the body of William Bridges, esq; sonne of Sir Thomas Bridges and Anne his wife, who dyed the 10th day of March 1684. Anna Powell, daughter of Sir Thomas Bridges, departed this life the 18th of March 1740."

On another stone below the rails:—"Here lyeth the body of Harry the son of James Bridges, of this parish, gent. and Mary his wife, who departed this life the 15th of Jan. 1720, aged one year and four months. And also of James, Thomas, and another Harry, who all dyed infants."

On another stone:—"Here lyeth the body of James Bridges, gent. natural son of Harry Bridges, esq; who dyed June the 23d, 1741, aged 44 years."

On an old mural monument of stone, against the wall of the north aisle:—"Mrs. Joane Flover.

Anag.—*Love for anie.*

"Having by love fulfill'd the law, she dies,  
That natvre's law might have its sacrifice.



Be not thov curious, reader, to knowe  
 The jewel in earth's cabinet below;  
 If an inscription will give content,  
 This stone can tell she liv'd as innocent  
 As here she lies: If saints receive their blis,  
 Precious in GOD's sight this jewel is.  
 If this please not, reade thou her name, and find  
 The exprefs characters of her sweet mind.  
 To be where she's, think thov it noe disgrace,  
 An element should be in its proper place.  
 Thus earth to earth—like is of like desir'd,  
 And thou expect the like when life's expir'd.  
 Noe triumph, death! that sovldier's not slayne,  
 That trumpet's sounds can raise—to die is gayne.

“Carendo potius quam fruendo beneficium agnoscimus.”

Against the east end of the north aisle is a mural monument of stone, in the center of which on an oval black tablet incircled with foliage (in which rest two weeping cherubs in a reclining posture, the one holding a skull, the other an hour-glass) is the following inscription:—“Siftas parumper viator, et lachrymula saltem vram humectes Henrici Flower, generosi, qui si candorem spectes ceteris ætatis suæ præfuit: si modestiam; par omnibus: si scientiam; paucis inferior: si religionem (quod nomen defæcatâ hâc ætate schismatum voragine pænè absorptum est) ecclesiæ veræ apostolicæ constans et indefessus vigvit alumnus. Quod si Apollineam lavrum addidisse potuisset, Apollinaris facultas vivide adhuc florisset Apollinis filius. Sed invidente fato Junij 9, anno Domini 1667, vere sui mensis cecidit Flos.”

On a flat stone in the passage of the middle aisle,——“Here lyeth the body of Anna, the daughter of Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Mary Leman, who departed April 23, 1633, ætatis suæ 19.

“Grim death, the eater meate doth give,  
 By that which did me kill, I live;  
 The grave devours me, but I shall  
 Live to see its funeral;  
 After some ages more are spent,  
 The gluttonous grave shall keep a lent.”

Against the north wall, by the vestry-room, are the following records of benefactions:

*Benefactors to the Poore of this Parish.*

- “Henry Bridges, esq; gave fifty pounds, the profits to the poore for ever.
- “Mr Carew gave twenty pounds.
- “Mr. William Carter gave five pounds.
- “Mr. Walter Holbin gave fifty pounds.
- “Mr. John Wright, five pounds.
- “Mr. Stibbins, five pounds.

" Mr. Thomas Holbin gave five pounds a year for ever, to be paid to the poore of the parish on St. Thomas's-day.

" Mr. Thomas Cox gave forty shillings to the poore for ever.

" The feoffees of this parish gave fowerteene pounds, the profitts to the poore for ever.

" Mr. John Henry gave ten shillings a yeare for ever for a sermon to be preached every yeare on New-year's-day.

" Mr. Robert Bagnal gave fifty pounds, the profitts to the poore for ever.

W. HILL,                    }  
J. RUMSEY,                } Churchwardens, 1685. VF."

In another frame:

" Benefactors to the Church and Poor of this parish.

" 1724. Mrs. Ann Tilly, late of this parish, spinster, deceased, gave the two bras branches in the middle and south ailes, with the irons and ornaments thereto. She also gave the sume of forty pounds, the profits thereof to be applied in manner following, viz. 20s. to the poore in bread on Christmas-Eve; 10s. for a sermon on Christmas-day in the evening; 5s. for candles, and the remainder for cleaning the branches yearly for ever, to be laid out and paid as by her will is directed.

" 1725. Harry Bridges, esq; gave the new font and cover, and other benefactions, towards ornamenting this church.

" 1729. Mr. John Bowles, late of Kingston-upon-Thames, deceased, by his will gave 10l. a year payable at Christmas for ever to put poor boys of this parish to school or apprentices, as the churchwardens for the time being shall think fit."

On a third frame:

" The benefactions of the honourable Sir Thomas Bridges, and of his virtuous lady the Lady Anna Bridges, to the parish and parish church of Keynsham.

" Sir Thomas Bridges hath given one hundred pounds, the use of it to twelve poor men, to be distributed by his heir and the minister of the parish for ever.

" The Lady Anna Bridges, wife of Sir Thomas Bridges lately deceased, gave the crimson velvet altar-cloth and cushion, and a crimson velvet pulpit-cloth, all with gold fringe; as also a large Common-Prayer book to be used at the altar.

" Sir Thomas Bridges hath given two silver flagons, a chalice, and cover, with his and his Lady's arms on it, to the use of the altar.

" Sir Thomas Bridges hath erected a school, and endowed it with twenty pounds a year, for the teaching of twenty poor boys of the town and parish.

" Sir Thomas Bridges hath erected an alms-house for six people, and endowed it with twenty-four pounds a year.

" Sir Thomas Bridges hath given twenty shillings a year for preaching a sermon in the church of Keynsham on the 4th of April, in memory of the Lady Bridges for ever."

In



In a frame over the vestry door:

“ Captain James Saunders, late of London, and a native of this town, by his will of the 8th of March 1739, gave one hundred pounds to the poor of this parish, to be disposed of as agreed on in vestry; and one hundred pounds to the churchwardens towards keeping this church in repair, and preserving the grave-stones of his father and family.”

In the south wall of the chancel is a remarkably large benetoire, with two circular basons for the reception of holy water.

## B R I S T L I N G T O N

**I**S a village pleasantly situated on the great road from Bath to Bristol, and distant from the latter two miles. It stands on the easy slope of a hill, and is washed by a small stream which has its source at Saltwell in the parish of Whitchurch.

This place was a part of the honour of Gloucester, granted by King William Rufus to Robert Fitz-Hamon, nephew of William the Conqueror. This Robert at his death left issue four daughters, two of whom were abbesses, viz. Cecily of Shaftesbury, and Hawise of Wilton. Amice married the Earl of Brittany; and Mabel was married to Robert earl of Gloucester, one of the illegitimate sons of Henry I. who had in her right this manor.

To this Robert succeeded William his son, whose issue male being extinct, the said William constituted John a younger son of Henry II. his heir. He died in 1173, and after his decease the king retained this earldom in his own hands; but in the last year of his reign he gave Isabel, the sister and coheir of the said William, in marriage to John his son, afterwards King of England, who before he came to the crown, at the request of the said Isabel his wife, granted this manor with all its appertinances to Sir John la Warre, to hold by the service of half a knight's fee, which grant the said King John ratified and confirmed in the eighth year of his reign.<sup>a</sup>

This John la Warre died 14 Joh. leaving Jordan la Warre his son and heir, who then paid two hundred pounds for livery of his lands.<sup>b</sup> His wife's name was Johanna.

To whom succeeded John la Warre, who 3 Edw. I. was sheriff of Herefordshire, in which county he chiefly had his residence, as had also his successor

Roger la Warre, who 27 Edw. I. was summoned to parliament among the barons; and died seized of this manor 14 Edw. II. leaving by Clarice his wife, daughter and coheir of Sir John de Tregoz, a great baron in Herefordshire and Wiltshire, John his son heir, forty years of age.

<sup>a</sup> Cart. 8 Joh.

<sup>b</sup> Rot. Pip. 14 Joh.

Which John, son and heir of Roger lord la Warre, upon the death of Clarice his mother, 29 Edw. I. had an assignation of a moiety of the lands of which John de Tregoz, father of the said Clarice, died possessed. Among them was the manor of Chelworth in this county. This John was in several expeditions in the time of Edw. I. II. and III.; he married Joane, daughter of Robert, and sister and heir to Thomas lord Grelle, of Manchester in the county of Lancaster; and having been summoned to parliament from 1 Edw. II. to 16 Edw. III. died 21 Edw. III. without issue; whereupon Roger his grandson, viz. son of John his eldest son, who died in his life-time, by Margaret daughter of Robert Holland, became his heir.

Which Roger 23 Edw. III. had livery of the lands of his inheritance. 30 Edw. III. he was with Prince Edward in the great battle of Poitiers, where the English gained a compleat victory. He was summoned to parliament 36 and 37 Edw. III. and died 44th of that reign, seized, among many other manors, of Brislington which he held of Edward le Dispencer, leaving John la Warre his son and heir. Of the aforesaid Roger, Robert Wyteneý held a knight's fee in Comb-Wyche. The said Roger la Warre was buried in the abbey of Swineshead in the county of Lincoln, and was succeeded in his estates by Sir John la Warre, knt. twenty-five years of age at the date of his father's decease.

This John had summons to parliament from 44 Edw. III. till 21 Ric. II. He died 27 July, 22 Ric. II. without issue; being then certified to have been seized, among divers other estates, of this manor of Bristleton, which he is said to have held of Thomas le Dispencer earl of Gloucester, as of the honour of Gloucester, by the service of two parts of a knight's fee.

At the death of which John, Thomas his brother became his heir. The said Thomas was rector of the church of Manchester, which he made collegiate; and dying 4 Hen. VI. Sir Reginald West, knt. was found to be his heir; being the son of Joane, late the wife of Thomas West, and sister of the said Thomas de la Warre.

Which Reginald West was summoned to parliament by the title of Lord de la Warre, 5 Hen. VI. in which first year he had livery of his lands. He was in many campaigns in France in the reign of Henry VI. and dying 29 Henry VI. left Richard his son and heir.

Which Richard, in consideration of his special services to the house of Lancaster during their contentions with the house of York, 38 Henry VI. obtained a grant of 40l. per annum during his life, to be received out of the issues and profits of the manor of Old-Wutton in the county of Wilts, part of the possessions of the Duke of York, (Richard) then attainted. He afterwards went abroad to avoid the politicks of the times, and died 16 Edw. IV. possessed of this manor; which descended to his son and heir Thomas, then nineteen years of age.

This Thomas West lord de la Warre was a great favourite in the courts of Hen. VII. and VIII. of the former of whom he obtained many large estates in the county of Suffex, being part of the possessions of John duke of Norfolk attainted. He had two wives, 1. Elizabeth, sister of Sir John Mortimer, knt. by whom he had Thomas, and  
William



William who died issueless, and four daughters. 2. Eleanor, daughter of Sir Roger Copley, knt. He died 1525, 17 Henry VIII.

Thomas West lord de la Warre, son and heir of the last-mentioned Thomas lord de la Warre, succeeded him. He was a knight banneret, and being elected knight of the garter, Dec. 1, 1549, was installed the 13th of that month at Windsor. He married Elizabeth daughter and coheir of Sir John Bonville, knt. but left no issue. He died in 1554, seized of this manor, and that of Shepton-Mallet in this county. By an inquisition taken after his decease, his heirs were found to be Joan Dudley duchess of Northumberland, being the daughter and heir of Eleanor his eldest sister, the wife of Sir John Guildford, knt. and the three daughters of his second sister Dorothy, the wife of Sir Owen West, knt. viz. Elizabeth, wife of Nicholas Deering; Mary, wife of John Warnet; and Anne, wife of James Gage. John Lacey, esq; was lord of this manor 30 Eliz. and from him it descended to Sir Rowland Lacey, knt. Sir John Lacey, knt. and Rowland Lacey, esq; who possessed it in 1653; whence it passed to the family of Langton, and from them to William Gore Langton, esq; (in right of his wife) who is the present owner.

2 Edw. III. A. D. 1328, a petition was presented in parliament at the suit of Joan la Warre, complaining that the manor of Brislington, which then and always was without the bounds of the King's chace, called Kingswood, and also that of Filwood, had been included within the said chaces by the wardens thereof.<sup>c</sup>

One of the Lords de la Warre founded, on the north side of his manor here, a chapel to the honour of St. Anne. This chapel was fifty-seven feet in length, and fifteen in breadth, and there were nineteen buttresses about it; the height of it from the ground to the covering of the arched vault was eighty feet.<sup>d</sup> The place where this chapel (long since ruined) stood, is but little known, being in a nook of the county, opposite *Crew's-Hole* in the parish of St. George in Gloucestershire, from which it is divided by the Avon. A more retired spot could hardly be found; a deep dell, overhung with aged oaks, alders, and poplars, bounds its southern aspect, and through it runs a limpid rivulet from Brislington, murmuring over a rocky bottom, and forming several water-falls.

The living of Brislington is a donative in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster, and in the gift of Mrs. Popham. The Rev. Mr. Baker is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Luke. It is a neat building, composed of a nave, south-aisle, and chancel. A well-built tower at the west end contains five bells. There are several inscriptive memorials in this church, but of little account; and the following notice of benefactions:

"A. D. 1670. Thomas Jones, yeoman, sometime churchwarden of this parish, gave twenty shillings, the use whereof is to be distributed to six poor housekeepers every St. Thomas's-day.

"1686. Thomas Munday, yeoman, of this parish, gave out of his land for ever twenty shillings a year, to be laid out in bread, and distributed to the poor every St. Thomas's-day.

<sup>c</sup> Rot. Parl. 2 Edw. III.

<sup>d</sup> Itin. Willelm. de Worcestre, 190.

"1698. Sir

" 1698. Sir William Cann, knight and baronet, of this parish, gave twenty-five pounds, the profits thereof to be distributed in bread to the poor the first Sunday after the second of July yearly for ever.

" 1724. Mr. John Newman, of the city of Bristol, plumber, gave to the poor of this parish twenty-six pounds, the interest thereof to be given in bread on St. John's and St. Peter's days yearly for ever, by the churchwardens and overseers of the parish, to those poor that frequent divine service at this church.

In the church-yard, at the east end of the church, is an old tomb, whereon is this inscription :

" 1542.

Thomas Newman

Aged 153.

" This stone was new-faced in the year 1771, to perpetuate the great age of the deceased."

\* The original numerals on this tomb were simply 53; but some arch wag, by prefixing the figure 1, made the person here interred one year older than the celebrated Thomas Parr, who died in 1625, at the age of one hundred and fifty-two. Another person of the name of Newman, who was coroner for this county, is said to have been buried at King-Weston, at the age of 132. To this advanced period few mortals have protracted their existence; and of those few, little is recorded but their names. Among the instances of longevity that are preserved to us either by the pen of the historian, or the parochial register, the old woman of Lancashire, called *the Cricket of the Hedge*, who died in the reign of Charles the First, and yet remembered the battle of Bosworth-Field, is set down as a most remarkable one, and may serve to shew, that the little thread of life, frail as it is, may, under an all-ruling Providence, by temperance and alacrity, be long preserved from quite unravelling or snapping off. She was born at Over, near Delamere-forest in Cheshire. Her christian name was Margaret; her maiden name unknown. She lived for some years in the service of a family called Downs, at Shrigley; but was afterwards married to one Humphry Broadhurst, a day-labourer, with whom she lived in a small tenement in Hedge-Row, in the township of Rainow in the county of Chester; from which place, and the natural merriness of her temper, she acquired the name of *the Cricket of the Hedge*. She was very active; never known to be sick; and could walk nimbly till a few years before her death. Her chief diet was water-gruel; and in her old age manchet and new-milk. She was visited out of curiosity by people from all parts, and among the rest by some families of quality and distinction. Some years before her death Sir George Booth sent for her to his seat, and would have there kept her, together with a relation to take care of her; but after staying a month, she told Sir George his diet would not do, and that if she did not return home shortly she must die. Towards the close of her life she was reduced to that degree of weakness, that she was carried like a child in her youngest daughter's arms, and sometimes was rocked in a cradle. She lived to one hundred and forty years, and was buried in the parish church of Prestbury. To an enquiry made about her age by one of her visitors, she returned this answer, " I was fourscore years old when I had that snicket, (pointing to her daughter who stood by) and she is now turned of sixty."—*Letter at the end of the sixth vol. of LELAND'S ITINERARY.*





## B U R N E T.

**T**HIS small compact parish, consisting of about seven hundred acres, is situated on the river Chew, two miles south from Keynsham, of which manor it was a part at the time of the Conquest, and was that hide which was held by the wife of Ulward, a freeman, when the Norman survey was compiled.<sup>a</sup> When it came by grant of King William Rufus to Robert Fitz-Hamon, lord of the honour of Gloucester, he annexed it with other great possessions to the abbey which he refounded at Tewkesbury in the county of Gloucester, on the scite of the old monastery erected A.D. 715, to the honour of the blessed Virgin Mary, by Oddo and Doddo, two brothers, dukes of Mercia.<sup>b</sup> In 1293 the temporalities of the abbot here were valued at six pounds.<sup>c</sup> He had a charter of free-warren in Burnet, and by grant of divers kings, this, with his other manors, was exempt from all secular services.<sup>d</sup> An inquisition taken 13 Ric. II. sets forth, that the abbot of Tewkesbury held the manor of Burnet juxta Keynsham, as parcel of the foundation of his church of Tewkesbury, of the heir of Lord le Despencer then a minor, as of his honour of Gloucester.<sup>e</sup> The manor and advowson of the church continued in the possession of the same abbey till its dissolution; after which, 2 Eliz. both the manor and the advowson, with all the tithes, were granted by the Queen to John Cutte and Richard Roberts.<sup>f</sup> Which John Cutte was mayor of Bristol, and died 1575 seized of the manor and advowson of Burnet, leaving issue William Cutte his son and heir, who was lord of this manor 26 Eliz. To whom succeeded another John Cutte, who 41 Eliz. sold the manor and advowson to John Whitson, alderman of Bristol, who gave it to feoffees in trust for the endowment of his Red-maids' hospital in Bristol, and other charitable uses. The mayor and certain of the corporation of the city of Bristol are the present feoffees, and under them the manor of Burnet is held by Samuel Day, esq; who has a neat and very pleasant dwelling-house adjoining to the church, built of late years near the scite of the old court-house inhabited by the Cuttes.

The living is a rectory, in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster, in the gift of the mayor and corporation of the city of Bristol. The Rev. Mr. Baker is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Michael, and consists of a nave and one small side aisle on the south side; at the end of which is a curious old brass plate to the memory of John Cutte, lord of this manor, Joan his wife, and twelve of their children.

The two parents are represented as kneeling at an altar with their hands closed in a suppliant posture, and books open before them: From the mouth of each issues a label on which is written the name, viz. John Cutte, Joan Cutte. On the father's right hand are his eight sons in a row, kneeling, with their names on labels issuing from each of their mouths; viz. Matthewe, Thomas, John, Nicholas, John, Richard, William, and Robarte. On the left hand of the mother are her four daughters in the

<sup>a</sup> See under Keynsham.<sup>b</sup> Tanner's Notitia Monastica.<sup>c</sup> Taxat. Temporal.<sup>d</sup> Cart. Var.<sup>e</sup> Esc. 13 Ric. II.<sup>f</sup> Ter. Syden.

same attitude, and their names distinguished in the same manner, viz. Brigit, Marye, Susan, and Anne. Both the parents and children are dressed in a kind of loose robe, reaching to the feet. At the upper corners are the arms of the city of Bristol, viz. on the sinister side, on a mount, a castle with two towers domed, on each a pennon; on the dexter base, barry wavy of six, a ship sailing from behind the castle, the fore and main-mast with two sails on each in sight. On the other side of the plate is the Merchant's mark.

On the top of the plate is this inscription—"Here lyeth buried John Cutte, sometime mayore of the cyttie of Bristolle, who deceasede leving his wife Joane, and hath had betwene them 8 sones and 4 doughters. He decesed in the monethe of May the 21 daye in anno Domini 1575."

On the lower part of the plate is inscribed,  
 "Par jacet hoc tumulo sociale; uxore maritus  
 Jungitur: ut lectus, sic tenet urna duos.  
 Cuthevs Johannes conjunx, vir dignus amari,  
 Sumpsit Johannam: par in amore decus.  
 Pignore multiplici par fælix lustra peregit  
 Plurima; secunda nunc regnat junctus.  
 Uterquam Deos."

In the chancel over the communion-table is a small stone monument, inscribed, "Jane Dyer, daughter of Jane the wife of Mr. Phillip Gwin, minister, who departed May 12, 1650. Ralph Dyer, son of Jane the wife of Mr. Phillip Gwin, minister, departed April 9, 1652."

On a neat mural monument against the south side of the church:—"Near this place lies the body of Samuel Day, who died the 21st of December 1708, aged 55. Also of Samuel his son, who died the 8th of June 1734, aged 41. And of Mary his widow, who died the 18th of November 1770, aged 80. As also the body of George Phelps, who died the 31st of December 1750, aged 34. And Samuel Day Phelps, his son, by Mary his wife, daughter of the late Samuel Day, who died May 4, 1751, aged 50 weeks. Also of one son and daughter of John Day by the said Mary."

Against the north wall:—"Sacred to the memory of John Day, esq; who departed this life the 31st day of January 1772, aged 49 years."





## QUEEN-CHARLETON.

**T**HIS parish, so called from its having belonged to one of the Queens of England, lies five miles southeast from the city of Bristol, and two nearly east from the village of Whitchurch, to which it is contiguous. Its situation is woody, inclosed, and full of springs; some coal is produced on its northeast limits, near Keynsham. The whole parish contains about twelve hundred acres. The great road to Bath lay formerly through the village; and on account of the salubrity of its air, it has been a place of much resort; particularly in the year 1574, when the plague raged so violently in Bristol, as to carry off two thousand persons, houses were fitted up here for the reception of families from that city. Queen Elizabeth had gone through this place the year before, and granted it a charter for a fair to be held yearly on the twentieth day of July, which fair is still continued.

At the time of the Conquest this village, with that of Whitchurch, and many other adjoining places, was parcel of the manor of Keynsham, and therefore is not mentioned in the general survey of that age. Upon the foundation of the abbey in the town of Keynsham, it was severed from the body of that lordship, and given to the religious, whose revenues in this place, in the town of Keynsham, and in Filton or Whitchurch, were in the year 1293 rated at twenty-six pounds.<sup>a</sup> 7 Edw. II. the abbot and convent procured a charter of free-warren in all their lands lying within Charleton.<sup>b</sup> The abbot's court-house stood on the north side of the street: nothing of it now remains except an old gateway, the arch of which is circular, and decorated with zigzag mouldings.

After the suppression of the monastery, the manor of Charleton, among other possessions, was settled in jointure on Catherine Parr, the last Queen of King Henry VIII. from which circumstance the parish obtained its name. But the tithes of hay, corn, and other articles, and also a messuage or tenement, situated in Charleton near the church-yard, called the *Sextery*, were granted to Sir William Herbert, knt.<sup>c</sup> The family of Popham of late years possessed this manor, and sold it in 1769 to Vickris Dickinson, esq; who is the present owner.

The family of Dickinson were originally from Yorkshire, and bore for their arms, Or; a bend engrailed between two lions rampant *gules*.

William Dickinson, B. D. was rector of Appleton, and of Besille's-Leigh, near Oxford; and had his livings sequestered by the parliament for his attachment to the royal cause.<sup>d</sup> By a daughter of Culpeper he left issue three sons, 1. Edmund Dickinson, M. D. who died in April A. D. 1707, aged 83, and was father of Elizabeth Dickinson, sole heiress to his estates; she was first married to Sir Edward Shires, bart. and afterwards to Baron Bloomberg, envoy from the Duke of Courland. 2. William Dickinson, who was of Abingdon in the county of Berks. And 3. Captain Francis Dickinson, of

<sup>a</sup> Taxat. Temporal.<sup>b</sup> Cart. 7 Edw. II.<sup>c</sup> Ter. Sydenham.<sup>d</sup> Walker's Sufferings of the Clergy.

Jamaica,\* who served under Pen and Venables, at the taking of that island from the Spaniards, in the year 1655. He had issue three sons, of whom the survivor Caleb Dickinson married Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Vickris, of Chew-Magna in this county, esq; grandson and heir of Richard Vickris, merchant and alderman of the city of Bristol. Vickris Dickinson, the present owner of Charleton, is the youngest son of the abovenamed Caleb Dickinson, by the said Elizabeth his wife; to whom, and to his two nephews Barnard Dickinson, of Monks and of Bowden-house in the county of Wilts, esq; and William Dickinson, of King-Weston in this county, esq; valuable estates in the island of Jamaica are descended from Francis Dickinson their progenitor abovementioned.

The living of Queen-Charleton is a donative in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster, and in the presentation of the lord of the manor. The Rev. Mr. Adams is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Margaret, is a small but neat structure, composed of a nave and two side aisles, with a tower at the west end, containing a clock and four bells; one of which has this inscription: *Water Maria plena gratiae.*

There are several memorials in the church to the family of Hayward.

**BENEFACTIONS.** "Mr. George Lacy gave six pounds to the poor of the parish of Queen-Charleton, to be distributed in bread by the minister and churchwardens on the 25th of December yearly for ever.

"Mrs. Sarah Lacy gave forty shillings, the profits thereof to be distributed in like manner.

"Mrs. Anne Lacy, gave ten pounds to the same purpose.

"Mrs. Mary Freeman, by a codicil to her will, dated the 8th day of May 1760, gave the interest of five hundred pounds, to be paid by quarterly payments, towards clothing, books, and teaching twenty poor children."

The christenings in this parish are nearly on a ten years average 26, the burials 25. The parish is remarkably healthy, there being a gentleman now alive, and in good health, of ninety years of age; and a widow woman of the age of ninety-two. And about twelve years since there was a yeoman aged near a hundred, and his father, who was also born and lived here, died at about the same age. Several of the former inhabitants have lived to be upwards of eighty.

\* Thoresby's *Ducatus Leodiensis*.





## CHELWOOD, OR CHELWORTH.

**T**HIS parish is situated in a woody country, full of hills and deep vales, in the southern part of the hundred, bordering upon the east angle of that of Chew. It consists of only about twenty houses.

In former times it was a place of much account, and possessed by persons of the highest distinction. At the time of the Conquest it was the property of two distinct lords; being then called by the several names of *Celeworde*, and *Cellewert*; the former belonged to Eustace earl of Bulloigne, and is thus surveyed:

“ Alured holds of the Earl, CELEWORDE. Thuri held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is three carucates. Thereof in demesne are two hides and a half, and three villanes, and two cottagers, with one carucate, and in demesne another. There are five acres of meadow. Wood five furlongs long, and one furlong broad. It is worth sixty shillings.

*The land of Alured de Merleberge.*

“ Alured de Merleberge holds of the King, CELLEWERT, and Nicolas of him. Carle held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is five carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and four servants, and three villanes, and four cottagers, with one plough. There are seven acres of meadow, and thirty acres of wood. It was and is worth one hundred shillings.”

These two parcels of territory afterwards composed the two manors called East and West-Chelworth, and both were held by barony, as parcel of the barony of Ewyas, in the county of Hereford. Harold de Ewyas was lord thereof in the time of King Stephen, and left issue two sons, John lord Sudley, of Sudley in Gloucestershire, and Robert, who resided at Ewyas, and had this manor given him by his father, being possessed of it in the time of Henry II. This Robert de Ewyas left one daughter, Sibil, sole heir to his estates, who being married to Robert de Tregoz, a baron of Wiltshire, the manor passed into that family, and the said Robert de Tregoz, 7 Joh. upon the collection of the sixth scutage of that king's reign, answered thirty-eight marks, for nineteen knights' fees belonging to the honour of Robert de Ewyas his father-in-law.<sup>b</sup>

To this Robert succeeded Robert his son and heir, who 20 Henry III. had respite for the payment of one hundred pounds, due for the relief of those lands, which were of the inheritance of Sibil de Ewyas, his mother; and doing his homage had livery thereof, soon after which he obtained liberty to pay his relief by twenty pounds per annum.<sup>c</sup>

Robert the son of Geffery de Tregoz succeeded to this manor on the death of the last-mentioned Robert, and being one of those who engaged in the baronial wars, was slain in the battle of Evesham in Worcestershire, 49 Henry III.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.<sup>b</sup> Rot. Pip. 8 Joh.<sup>c</sup> Rot. Fin. 23 Hen. III.

On his death, John his son and heir came to the estate; and, notwithstanding his father's delinquency, was in great favour with Henry III. and from Edw. I. obtained a charter of free-warren in all his demesne lands lying in Chelworth and Burnham in this county; and also, besides divers other grants and privileges from the crown, he 22 Edw. I. being in the expedition then made into Gascony, had leave for his wife and all his family to abide during his absence in the castle of Devizes in the county of Wilts, and to have wood from Melksham, and other forests, for their fires.<sup>d</sup> He died 28 Edw. I. leaving John la Warre, son of Roger la Warre, by Clarice his eldest daughter, and Sibyll, the wife of William de Grandison, his other daughter, his next heirs.<sup>e</sup>

8 Edw. II. this John la Warre granted to William de Beauchamp and Joan his wife, this his said manor of Chelworth, to hold of the King in capite by barony, as parcel of the honour or barony of Ewyas.<sup>f</sup> Which William de Beauchamp died seized of the same 29 Edw. III.<sup>g</sup>

In some process of time this manor, possessing the name of West-Chelwood, or West-Chelworth, was transmitted to the family of Latimer; and Sir Thomas Latimer, of Braybrock, knt. held it 2 Henry IV. and was succeeded in it by his brother Edward, who died without issue 12 Henry IV. leaving John Gryffin his cousin and next heir, (viz. the son of Richard, son of Elizabeth his sister) who, doing his fealty, had livery of his lands.

Edward Griffin, a descendant of the said John Gryffin, heir to the Latimer estate, was owner of West-Chelworth in the time of Elizabeth, and in the 23d year of that Queen's reign, sold the manor to John Cockswell.<sup>h</sup>

The manor of East-Chelworth was also held of the honour of Ewyas, and possessed in the reigns of Richard II. and Henry IV. by the family of Montacute, of whom it was held for many generations by the family of Cocks.<sup>i</sup> The families of Weekes, Bisse, and Morgan, were also sometime owners of it, and at this time both the manors of East and West-Chelworth, or Chelwood, are the property of Mrs. Popham, relict of Francis Popham, esq.

The living of Chelwood is a rectory in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster. The bishop of Bath and Wells is patron, and the Rev. Mr. Sayle is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Leonard. It is a small but neat building, having a nave, chancel, and a small south aisle. At the west end is a tower, built in 1772, containing one bell.

In the chancel on the north side is a handsome mural monument with this inscription: "Near this place are interred the remains of Roger Lyde of this parish, esq; who departed this life the 30th of January 1760, aged 52. He served the office of high sheriff for this county in the year 1755, and acted as a justice of the peace for near thirty years with great integrity and honour. Also Anne his wife, daughter of Mr.

<sup>d</sup> Rot. Claus. 22 Ed. I.

<sup>e</sup> Esc.

<sup>f</sup> Inq. ad quod damnum, 8 Ed. II.

<sup>g</sup> Esc.

<sup>h</sup> Ter. Syden.

<sup>i</sup> Esc.



Langley, of Warminster in the county of Wilts; a woman of great piety and charity: they lived together many years in great affection, and died much lamented. She departed this life Dec. 3, 1770, aged 60."

On another monument against the same wall is an inscription to the Rev. Thomas Pearce, M. D. who died Nov. 15, 1770, aged 74. He was fifty years pastor of a congregation of protestant dissenters in this parish.

### C O M P T O N - D A N D O,

A Parish denominated from its owners, lies southwest from Keynsham, situated in a deep woody vale, seven miles from Bath, and the same distance from Bristol. The lands are mostly pasture, and the slopes of the hills are covered with woods and coppices. The river Chew runs through it in its way to Keynsham. Its ancient name was CONTITONE, as it is written in Domesday-Book:

" Mathildis holds of the Earl [Eustace], CONTITONE. Wlnod held it in the time  
" of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is five carucates. Thereof  
" in demesne are three hides, and there are two carucates, and four servants, and five  
" villanes, and ten cottagers, with three ploughs. There is a mill of sixty-four pence  
" rent, and five acres of meadow. Pasture four furlongs long, and two furlongs broad.  
" It is worth one hundred shillings."

In the time of Henry II. this manor was the property of Alexander de Alno, corruptly called Danno, or Dando, and from this family the place had its additional name.\* Which Alexander de Alno, 7 Henry II. for this and his other lands in this county, paid two marks into the King's exchequer;† and 22d of the same reign the said Alexander and Robert his son were amerced in the sum of twenty marks for the forest.‡

To this Robert succeeded Henry de Alno, who was living 6 Ric. I. and had lands in this county and Dorset. He seems to have died without issue; for 8 Ric. I. Fulk de Alno, brother of Henry and Richard de Alno, is certified to hold three knights' fees in Somerset and Dorset, which formerly Robert and Alexander de Alno held.§

Fulk de Alno was living in the time of King John, and then occurs among the tenants of the abbot of Glastonbury.¶

His successor was Gefferey de Alno, who died 43 Henry III. then seized of two carucates of land in the village of Compton-D'Anno; and two carucates of land in the village of Ashton; both which he held of the king in chief by the service of one knight's fee. At the time of his decease Alexander his son and heir was thirty years of age.‡

\* Lib. Domesday.

† Cart. Antiq.

‡ Rot. Pip. 7 Hen. II.

§ Ibid. 22 Hen. II.

¶ Lib. Feod.

‡ Regist. Glaston.

• Esc.

Of which Alexander de Alno, who in many records is also called Danno, this manor of Compton-Dando was held in the time of Edward I. by Robert Burnel, bishop of Bath and Wells, lord chancellor, and lord treasurer of England, by the service of a pair of gilt spurs.<sup>b</sup> The said Robert Burnel died A. D. 1292, 21 Edw. I. leaving Philip, his brother's son, heir to his estates.

Which Philip married Maud, daughter of Richard earl of Arundel, by whom he had issue Edward his son and heir. He died 22 Edw. I. the year after his uncle Bishop Robert Burnel.

This Edward, 4 Edw. II. was in the expedition made into Scotland, as also 7 Edw. II. being then of the retinue of Bartholomew de Badlesmere. He was summoned to parliament by the title of Lord Burnel, from 5 to 8 Edw. II. and dying 9 Edw. II. without issue, his sister Maud, the wife of John de Handlo, became his heir.

The said John de Handlo died seized of this manor, which he held in right of the said Maud his wife, 20 Edw. III. leaving a son and heir Nicholas, who was summoned to parliament by the appellation of Lord Burnel:

29 Edw. III. this Nicholas lord Burnel was in the wars of France, and again in the 33d year of the same reign. He died 6 Ric. II. leaving Hugh lord Burnel his son and heir.

Hugh lord Burnel was knight of the garter in the time of Henry IV. with whom he stood in such high esteem, that he was constituted chief governor of several castles in Wales during the rebellion in that principality. 4 Edw. V. Edward his son being then dead, he entered into articles of agreement with Sir Walter Hungerford, knt. for the marriage of Margery, one of the daughters and heirs of Edward his said son, to Edmund Hungerford, esq; son of the said Sir Walter.<sup>1</sup> Which marriage took effect, and after the death of Hugh lord Burnel, 8 Edw. V. Edmund Hungerford came to the possession of this manor.<sup>k</sup>

From him it lineally descended to Sir John Hungerford, Sir Anthony, John, and Thomas Hungerford, who sold it in 1567 to Matthew Smyth, of Long-Ashton, esq; whose great grandson Sir Hugh Smyth, bart. sold the same in 1664 to Alexander Popham, esq; in whose family it has continued ever since, being now the property of Mrs. Popham, relict of the late Francis Popham, of Houndstreet in the parish of Marksbury, esq.

33 Edw. I. Peter Fitz-Robert granted one messuage and ten acres of land in Compton-Dando to the prior and convent of Bath.<sup>1</sup>

48 Edw. III. Thomas the son and heir of Richard de la Ryvere held the manor of SEVERYSWYKE, or SEWARD SWICK, juxta Compton-Dando, of Thomas the son of Edmund de Lyons. And Emma the wife of the said Richard held for her life one messuage and one yard-land in Compton called GRUBBESWYKE.<sup>m</sup> These lands descended to Richard Priour of Widcombe, who married Thomasia, a sister of the said Richard de la Ryvere, and in the time of Edw. IV. were held by Edward Brooke lord

<sup>b</sup> Esc. <sup>1</sup> Dugd. Bar. ii. 62.

<sup>k</sup> Esc. 8 Hen. V.

<sup>1</sup> Inq. ad quod Dam.

<sup>m</sup> Esc.

Cobham.



Cobham. 44 Eliz. Sewardswick belonged to George Young, esq; and is now the property of Mrs. Popham.

Part of the hamlet of WOLLARD lies within this parish westward. It was anciently the possession of the Lords Botreaux and Hungerford.

Through this parish runs that ancient boundary called WANSDIKE, and there is a field belonging to Mrs. Popham, the lady of the manor, which to this day preserves its name.

The church, valued in 1292 at one hundred shillings,\* was appropriated to the priory of Bath. It is a vicarage in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster. The bishop of Bath and Wells is patron; and the Rev. Mr. Gyllett the present incumbent.

The parish church, dedicated to St. Mary, consists of a nave, chancel, and north aisle, with a tower at the west end containing five bells.

In the chancel are memorials to several vicars of this parish, viz. Richard Davis, buried June 19, 1637. John Newman, who died Aug. 1664, æt. 40. Nathaniel Till-Adam, who died Jan. 4, A. D. 1692, æt. 62.

"A. D. 1727. Mr. John Newman, of the city of Bristol, plumber, gave to the poor of this parish twenty-six pounds, the interest thereof to be given in bread on St. John's and St. Peter's days, yearly for ever, by the churchwardens and overseers of this parish, to those poor that frequent divine service at this church."

Considerable lands in this parish, in Saltford, and in other parishes, belong to the church, for repairs and other parochial uses.

\* Taxat. Spiritual.

## F A R M B O R O U G H.

**T**HIS village, anciently written *Ferenberge*, is situated on the turnpike-road from Bath to Wells, eight miles distant from the former, and eleven from the latter, in a vale watered by a little stream, formed by a spring which rises in Barrow-Hill near Clutton, and runs into the Avon near Twiverton by Bath. The land of this parish is chiefly pasture. There is a large coal-work here, about a mile southwest from the church, called *Haygrove*, long noted for admirable fuel.

"The Bishop of Coutances held the manor of FERENBERGE, and William of the Bishop. Edric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is five carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and five servants, and four villanes, and three cottagers, with two ploughs. There are seventy-seven acres of meadow, and seventy-four acres of pasture. It was and is worth four pounds.

"To

“To this manor are added five hides. Aluric held them in the time of King Edward for one manor, and gelded for five hides. The arable is five carucates. Nigel holds them of the Bishop. In demesne are two carucates, with one servant, and one villane, and five cottagers. There are seventy-seven acres of meadow, and seventy-four acres of pasture. It was and is worth four pounds.”<sup>a</sup>

In very early days this manor had owners of its name, of whom William de Ferneberge was living in the time of Henry II. and then gave lands in Farmborough to the abbey of Keynsham.

For many successive reigns it belonged to the family of Stafford, of Hooke in the county of Dorset. Sir Humphrey Stafford, knt. held it with Clutton, 46 Edw. III. by the service of two knights' fees.<sup>b</sup> Sir Humphrey Stafford, knt. styled the elder, or with the silver hand, his son and heir, died seized of the same 1 Henry V. It was then held of the King, as of his dutchy of Lancaster, as of his manor of Trowbridge, by knight's service.<sup>c</sup>

To him succeeded Sir Humphrey Stafford, jun. knt. his son and heir, who died 20 Hen. VI. leaving issue Sir William Stafford, who died seized of Farmborough, 28 Hen. VI. and was succeeded therein by Sir Humphrey Stafford, knt. of Southwick in the county of Hants; who 2 Edw. IV. was summoned to parliament as a baron; and 4 Edw. IV. was created Lord Stafford of Southwick; and for his services to the crown was 9 Edw. IV. advanced to the title of Earl of Devon. By his will, dated 3 Edw. IV. he bequeathed his body to be buried in the church of St. Mary at Glastonbury, and appointed the wardens of the grey friars in Exeter, for the salvation of his soul, to go to every parish church in the several counties of Somerset, Dorset, Wilts, Devon, and Cornwall, and there say a sermon. He did not long enjoy his lands or his title; for 9 Edw. IV. on an expedition against the northern rebels, having forsaken the Earl of Pembroke, and by his desertion occasioned a victory to the enemy, the King directed his letters to the sheriffs of Somerset and Devon, commanding them forthwith to apprehend the Earl, and put him to death. Whereupon, making search for him, they found him in an obscure place near Brent, and carrying him thence to Bridgwater, cut off his head, Aug 17, 9 Edw. IV. after which his body was buried according to his will in the abbey-church of Glastonbury, under an arch of the south transept.

Upon his death the manor came by a coheiress to the family of Willoughby; and after the death of Sir Robert Willoughby, was granted by the King to Percival Thirlevalle and his heirs male.<sup>d</sup>

By the inquisition taken after the death of Humphrey Stafford earl of Devon, it appears that this manor and the advowson of the church, were held of John Selwood, abbot of Glastonbury.<sup>e</sup>

In the time of Queen Elizabeth it was vested in the family of St. Loe.

A second manor in Farmborough, anciently called FRYENBOROUGH manor, but now *Barrow-Hill Farm*, belonged to St. John's hospital without Redcliff-Gate in Bristol,

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.    <sup>b</sup> Lib. Feod.    <sup>c</sup> Esc.    <sup>d</sup> Harl. MSS. 433, 2101.    <sup>e</sup> Esc. 10 Edw. IV. and



and after the dissolution was granted April 29, 36 Henry VIII. to George Owen, esq; servant to the King, who 3 June, 38 Henry VIII. sold it to John Bush, of Wiltshire, esq; and his heirs. John Bush, grandson of the said John Bush, 5 Eliz. conveyed the same to Matthew Smyth, of Long-Ashton, esq; whose great grandson Sir Hugh Smyth, bart. sold it with Compton-Dando, in the year 1664, to Alexander Popham, esq; ancestor of the late Francis Popham, esq; whose relict Mrs. Popham is the present possessor of the manor of Farmborough.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster. The Rev. Dr. Gunning is the patron and incumbent.

The church, dedicated to All-Saints, is a small building, and consists of a nave, chancel, vestry-room, and porch. A tower at the west end contains six bells.

On a small mural monument near the communion-table is this inscription:

"Subtus jacet Solomon Pages Gallus, generosis parentibus ortus Anno Domini 1653, in ecclesiæ reformatæ Castello Thierenfis regimine, patri suo Johanni, dignissimo et vigilantissimo pastori successit Anno Dom. 1681. Pro verâ purâque Christi fide oppressus, vigente papisticâ persecutione spoliatus, tandemque patriâ exul, in Magnam Britanniam provectus est, ubi saluberrimum portum invenit Anno Dom. 1685. Ad sacros ordines ecclesiæ Anglicanæ diac. et presbyt. admissus, vicarius ecclesiæ parochialis de Old-Windfor comit. Berks institutus Anno Dom. 1686. Denique ecclesiæ hujusce parochialis de Farmborough rector institutus Anno Dom. 1693. Obijt 31 Oct. Anno Dom. 1725, ætatis suæ 72.

"Dans animam cœlo; reddidit ossa solo."

On the north side of the chancel wall:—"Underneath lieth the body of Lucy, relict of Solomon Pages, late rector of this parish. She died Oct. 1, 1745, aged 76 years."

On a small brass plate in the floor:—"Here lies the body of Mary, daughter of Solomon Pages, rector of this parish, born Jan. 20, 1703, died May 21, 1724."

On a stone adjoining:—"Here lieth the body of Anne, daughter of Solomon Pages, late rector of this parish. She died July 3, 1746, aged 40 years.

On another stone:—"In memory of the Rev. Mr. Isaac Pages, A. M. vicar of Compton-Dando, and rector of Burnet, who died Jan. 6, 1780, aged 70."

On a flat stone to the right of the communion-table:—"H. S. E. Gulielmus Aris, hujusce parochiæ nuper rector, necnon de Shepton-Mallet fidelis pastor: ob eximium temperantiæ specimen; fanaticorum invidia inter ecclesiæ Anglicanæ heroes invincibilis; inter cathedralis Wellensis prebendarios lumen maxime inobscurum; inter regios apud classem ministros, decus et ornamentum; maritorum charissimus; fratrum amantissimus; amicorum optimus; obijt Septembris 8, anno Dom. 1693, æt. suæ 39."

On another flat stone:—"Quæris viator, quis sub hoc marmore jacet? Sunt exuviae Gulielmi Ambrosæ, hujus ecclesiæ parochialis nuper rectoris dignissimi. In pessimis temporibus fide, in optimum principem et ecclesiam incuria—a rebellibus sæpe oppressus, devictus nunquam; diem obijt 7° Maij Anno Dom. 1683, ætatis suæ 67."

## M A R K S B U R Y.

THIS parish lies in the eastern part of the hundred, distant seven miles from Bath, and twelve from Bristol, comprising a village meanly built, and a hamlet called HOUNDSTREET. About half a mile northeastward of the church stands *Wingsbury-Hill*, a considerable eminence, on which formerly stood a chapel, long since demolished; but the traces and foundations thereof are visible. This parish abounds with fine black and blue marle, which is much used by the farmers on their pastures, of which the lands mostly consist.

The accounts of this parish are of a very early date. In the year of our Lord 926, King Athelstan gave to Duke Athelm, his son, the manor of *Merkesburie*, consisting of ten hides, and he afterwards bestowed it on the abbey of Glastonbury.<sup>a</sup> In the Danish wars the abbey lost possession of it; but King Edgar again restored it about A.D. 963.<sup>b</sup> After which the abbey enjoyed it uninterruptedly till the Conquest, when the King's commissioners returned the following account:

“ The church itself holds MERCESBERIE. In the time of King Edward it gelded for ten hides. The arable is eight carucates. Thereof in demesne are four hides and a half, and there are two carucates, and five servants, and six villanes, and five cottagers, with three ploughs. There are nineteen acres of meadow, and forty acres of wood. It is worth ten pounds.

“ Of this land a thane holds two hides and a half. It is worth twenty shillings. Oswald held it in the time of King Edward, and it could not be separated from the church.”<sup>c</sup>

In 1293 the temporalities of the abbey here were valued at 15l. 10s.<sup>d</sup> The abbot had a charter of free warren in his lands within this manor by grant of King Edward the third.<sup>e</sup> The same monastery continued in possession of the manors of Marksbury and Hunstreet (which last was the two hides and a half held by the thane, mentioned in the Norman survey) till its dissolution in the time of Henry VIII. when, by a survey taken by order of the crown, they were returned as follows:

“ *Rentes of assise and customary tenanntes.*

“ The rentes of assise and customarye tenanntes, apperteyning unto the said mannor, with the workes and customes whiche by tenure of their landes they are bounde to doe, are of the yerely value of 16l. 4s. 5½d.

“ *Demaynes.*

“ The demayne landes belonging unto the same manour are letton out by indenture for terme of yeres, for the some of 8l. 13s. 6d.

<sup>a</sup> Guil. Malmes. de Antiq. Glaston. Eccles.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid.

<sup>c</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>d</sup> Taxat. Temporal.

<sup>e</sup> Cart. 4 Edw. III. n. 87.

“ *Perquysites*



*“ Perquysites of courtes and fynes.*

“ The profittes comming of the perquysites of courtes, fynes of landes, and other casualties, are this yere answered in the bokes of accompts at 4l. 4s. 6d.

*“ Able men to serve the King.*

“ Also there be within the same lordeshipes able men, to doe the King servyce, to the nombre of 17.

*“ Woodes.*

“ Also there are apperteynyng unto the faide mannor, certayne woodes, called Haywood, Newoode, and the Common, set with okes and afshes of dyvers kyndes, the acres whereof cannot be esteemed, for they growe in plotts, valued at this survey to be worth 106l. 19s. 8d. whereof may be made a yerely wood sale of 60s.

*“ Common.*

“ Also there is a common, apperteynyng unto the fayde lordeshipe, wherein the tenanntes may put in their catle, at their pleasures, conteynyng 1 myle.”

After the dissolution the manors of Marksbury and Hunstreet, and the advowson of the church of Marksbury, were granted to Richard Watkins, alias Vaughan, 35 Henry VIII. and now both manors belong to Mrs. Popham, whose seat is at Houndstreet, where the late Francis Popham, esq; erected a very large and elegant mansion, which was not finished before his death. It stands on, or nearly on the scite of the old manor house of the abbots of Glastonbury, which was built by John Chinnock, abbot of Glastonbury, containing a chapel dedicated to the honour of St. Nicholas, a hall, chambers, buttery, kitchen, with a house on the south side of the hall, called the Yatehouse, and a large stable, and other proper out-houses, orchard, barton, &c. The manor-house was environed with a great moat, filled by a rivulet, and surrounded on all sides with oak pales, containing near two acres in circumference.<sup>a</sup> The park adjoining to this house was deservedly esteemed one of the finest in the county.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster; the gift is in Mrs. Popham, and the Rev. Mr. Baker is the present incumbent. In 1192, this benefice was taxed at 100s.<sup>b</sup> The parsonage-house has lately been rebuilt; and in digging for the foundations in 1781, two skeletons were found, near one of which was a large glass bead. It commands a fine prospect to the north.

The church is dedicated to St. Peter, and consists of one aisle, and a tower containing four bells.

In the chancel is a handsome stone tomb, inlaid with black and white marble, and inscribed on the front as follows:—“ To the memory of Francis Popham, esq; eldest son of Edward Popham, one of the representatives in several parliaments for the county of Wilts; descended from Lord Chief Justice Popham, and heir to the fortunes as well as to the virtues of a family distinguished by its attachment to the interest of their country.

<sup>a</sup> Return of the Surveyors printed in Langtoft's Chronicle.

<sup>b</sup> Ter. Ric. Beere, Abb. Glaston. in Joh. Glaston. Hist. ii. 354.

<sup>c</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

This monument is erected by his widow, in testimony of her affection. Ob. 4 Feb. 1779, æt. 45." Arms, *Or*, on a chief *gules*, two bucks' heads cabossed of the field.

Over the communion-table is a stone to the memory of William Counsell, sometime rector of this parish, who died April 25, A. D. 1674.

Another monument perpetuates the memory of William Waddon, also rector, who died 1682, aged 55.

## P U B L O W

**I**S a large village, situated in a fine rich vale, on the river Chew, over which there is a stone bridge in the hamlet of Wollard, where it divides this parish from that of Compton-Dando. The latter syllable of this place's name, which used to be written *Larwe*, signifies a little hill, and answers to the Latin *tumulus*; both terms being intended to specify the sepulchre of some great persons. And considering the many notable transactions which must have occurred on that ancient Belgick boundary *Wansdike*, which traverses this parish, and the number of people that must have perished in arms thereon, it is more than probable, that in these parts were deposited a multitude of bodies of departed heroes, sufficient to distinguish the asylum of their sepulchres.

Its name however does not occur in the book called *Domesday*, having, with regard to its landed concerns, been blended and intermingled with other manors. It anciently was part of the honour of Gloucester, and Gilbert de Clare, one of the lords thereof, founded within this parish, about the year 1228, a hermitage or cell, which from its founder was denominated *Clarelewe*.<sup>a</sup> In the time of King John this place became the property of the great family of St. Loe, or *de Sancta Laudo*, lords of Newton in this county.<sup>b</sup> By which family this manor, with Pensford and Wollard, was held of the honour of Gloucester for many successive reigns, till it came into the family of Botreaux, and from them passed by an heiress to the Hungerfords, and afterwards in like manner to the house of Hastings earls of Huntingdon.<sup>c</sup> In the schedule of Mary, the daughter and heiress of Thomas lord Hungerford, and afterwards wife to Edward lord Hastings, the manors of Publow and Pensford are asserted at the yearly value of 43l. 2s. 6d.;<sup>d</sup> and in the inquisition taken after the decease of George earl of Huntingdon, son of Edward lord Hastings, 21 July, 36 Hen. VIII. the manors of Pensford and Publow, valued at 40l. are certified to be held of the king, as of the honour of Gloucester, by the service of one knight's fee.<sup>e</sup> 13 Eliz. Publow and Pensford were in the hands of Sir Henry Becher, knt. and they now belong to Mrs. Popham.

The church of Publow is not mentioned in any of the old taxations: it is an improper curacy in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster. Mr. Peter Cox, of Wrington, is patron, and the Rev. Mr. Adams the present incumbent.

<sup>a</sup> MS. Ter. et ap. Cart. Antiq.

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Feod. et Rot. Pip.

<sup>c</sup> Esc.

<sup>d</sup> Dugd. Bar. ii. 211.

<sup>e</sup> Inq. post mort. Geo. Comit. Hunt. capt. ap. Crokehorne, 21 Jul. 36 Hen. VIII.



The church is dedicated to All-Saints; and consists of a nave, chancel, and two side ailes. At the west end stands a very handsome tower, containing six musical bells.

There is nothing particular in the church.

P E N S F O R D,

(Sometimes called Publow-Saint-Thomas, on account of its being a chapelry thereto, and the dedication of its Saint)

**I**S a small but ancient market-town, the market whereof is on Tuesday; it is separated from the principal part of Publow by the little river Chew, which runs across the street, and has over it an old stone bridge of three arches.

The town consists of a few ordinary houses; but is pleasantly situated in a fine woody vale, almost surrounded with small hills, well cultivated, and having on their sides several hanging orchards, which form a pleasing rural scene from every part of the town.

About two or three centuries ago it was reckoned "a praty market townlet, occupied with clothinge. Browne of London yn Limestrete was owner of it. The towne stood much by clothinge." It has dreadfully decayed since that time, and now, bereft of the benefit of trade, many of the houses are fallen into ruins.

Dr. Stukely<sup>b</sup> tells us, that its name is derived from two British words *Pen-Isc*, signifying the head of the river, being near the source of the river Chew. It was a common usage with our ancestors to pay a sacred reverence to the fountains of rivers, and they were frequently fought for on religious occasions, upon a confidence that a divinity must necessarily reside where so beneficial an element took its rise.

The church is dedicated to St. Thomas Becket, and is a neat modern edifice, consisting of a nave, chancel, south aile, and a tower at the west end, more ancient than the rest of the structure.

There formerly stood a chapel at a place called *Borough-Bank*, which was demolished in the middle of the last century, and its materials appropriated to some private use.

There was also a chantry here founded by one of the St. Loes.

"Mr. William Sage gave ten shillings for a sermon to be preached in this church on Palm-Sunday, and twenty shillings to the poor not receiving alms, yearly for ever; payable four days before Palm-Sunday, by the churchwardens of St. James's in Bristol.

"Mr. Thomas Maggs gave out of his estate called the Farm, 10s. for a sermon on St. Thomas's-day, and 10s. to the poor not receiving alms, yearly for ever.

"Mr. John Silk gave to the poor not receiving alms five shillings in bread, payable on St. John's-day yearly for ever, out of a close of ground called Little-Field."

<sup>a</sup> Lec. Itin. vii. 104.

<sup>b</sup> Itin. Cur. ii. 169.

## P R I S T O N.

**P**RISTON lies in the southeast angle of the hundred, and derived its name from the Saxon *Pneort*, a priest, and *ton*, a town. Its situation is on a rising ground, in a woody vale, through which a little brook, rising on Barrow-Hill, winds its way towards the Avon. About a mile westward from the church is a pleasing eminence called *Prisbarrow*, from which a fine and extensive prospect opens to the south, west, and north, over a richly cultivated country, intermingled with hill and dale, closely vested with wood.

The first account we have of this place commences at a very early period. The pious King Athelstan, (whose reign is rendered memorable to posterity by the Saxon translation of the Holy Scriptures;—a work evincing the character of that monarch, the learning of his prelates, and the softness of the manners of that age, which, though embued in war, was taught to raise the superstructure of conquest and of fame on the basis of religion) among other charitable donations to the monastery of Bath, founded by his predecessors Ofric and Offa, gave thereto the village of Priston, consisting of ten manses; a benefaction favoured and countenanced by the succeeding monarchs, both before and after the conquest of England by the Normans.\* In King William's survey we have the following account of it:

*“The land of the church of Bade.*

*“The church itself holds PRISTONE. In the time of King Edward it gelded for six hides. The arable is eight carucates. Of which in demesne are two hides, and there is one carucate, and three servants, and seven villanes, and eight cottagers, with six ploughs. There is a mill of seven shillings and six-pence rent, and twenty acres of meadow, and fourscore acres of pasture. It was and is worth six pounds.”*”

In 1293, the temporalities of the prior in this place were valued at one hundred and ten shillings.<sup>c</sup> Walter, a prior of this house, procured of King Edw. I. a charter of free-warren in all his lands within this manor, and the neighbouring one of Stanton-Prior,<sup>d</sup> and John de Dunster had a confirmation of the same grant.<sup>e</sup>

After the dissolution this manor fell into the hands of the laity, and it is now possessed by William Davis, esq; in right of his wife, and by Miss Jenkins, the daughters of William Jenkins, esq; who purchased it some years since of Lord Percival.

The church was valued in 1292 at six marks five shillings and four-pence.<sup>f</sup> It is a rectory in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster, and in the patronage of the lord of the manor. The Rev. Mr. Munton is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Luke, is a neat building of one pace, with a new-built tower containing five bells.

\* Excerpt. e Regist. Priorat. Bathon. MSS.

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>c</sup> Taxat. Temporal.

<sup>d</sup> Cart. 5 Ed. I. n. 23.

<sup>e</sup> Regist. Priorat. Bathon.

<sup>f</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.



On the north wall is an elegant monument of amber-coloured marble, having thereon a white tablet, with this inscription:—" Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth, wife of William Jenkins, of Priston, esq; who departed this life Sept. 28, 1766, aged 54 years. She was one in whom no guile was found; and filled all the stations of life, as daughter, wife, mother, and mistress, with approved conduct."

In the church-yard is a remarkably large old yew tree, the body near one and twenty feet in circumference.

## S A L T F O R D,

A Village situated on the north side of the road leading from Bath to Bristol, and on the banks of the river Avon, which divides it from Kelweston on the east, and Bitton in Gloucestershire on the north. Its name is supposed to have been derived from there having been a ford through the river at this place, at a time when the tide from Bristol flowed above this parish. The lands are in general pretty good, being a loamy sand, and a stone rush. There is plenty of stone, wherein many fossil shells are found of the oyster, cardium, venus, and pecten species. The wood is chiefly elm, and in several of the orchards between the turnpike road and the Avon, the apple-trees are loaded with the *viscum*, or mistletoe, in a very uncommon manner.

The manor of Saltford was one of those many which were originally annexed to the honour of Gloucester, and was held thereof in the time of Henry III. and Edw. I. by the family of Bayouse, and afterwards by the Bassets and the Rodneys; which last family possessed it from the reign of Edw. I. to that of Queen Elizabeth inclusive.\*

It is now the property of his Grace the Duke of Chandos.

The church, valued in 1292 at six marks and a half,<sup>b</sup> is rectorial in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster, and in the patronage of the Duke of Chandos; the Rev. Mr. Davies is the present incumbent.

The church is a small structure, dedicated to St. Mary, having one aisle, with a clumsy tower at the west end containing one bell.

On the left hand of the communion-table, is a monument of white veined marble, inscribed,—" To the memory of the Rev. Haviland John Hiley, who was rector of this parish 42 years; and also to the memory of Eleanor his wife, both interred near this place. They were eminent examples of the Christian faith, and exact in performing their duty to God, their neighbour, and themselves. He died Sept. 27, 1754, aged 65 years; she Feb. 13, 1770, aged 82."

There are also divers memorials to the families of Richmond, Purnell, Flower, Hunt, and Browning."

\* Esc. Var.

<sup>b</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

## S T A N T O N - D R E W,

(Originally called Stantone, and Stantune, from *ſtean*, a ſtone, and *ton*, a town, and additionally Stanton-Drew, from its ancient lords.)

**S**TANDS between Pensford and Chew-Magna, equidistant from both; whence the common proverbial rhyme:

“ Stanton-Drew,

“ A mile from Pensford, and another from Chew.”

It is ſituated in the ſouthweſt angle of the hundred, in a fine rich, wooded, and well-cultivated country. The lands are moſtly paſture, and very good, being a reddiſh ſtrong loam, looſened by a little ſand. Elm is the principal timber, which flouriſhes here in great luxuriance.

The river Chew waſhes this pariſh, and runs under a ſtone bridge northward from the church in its way to Pensford. The road to that town from Chew paſſes to the north of this river, and in the road lies an immenſe ſtone called *Hautville's-Coit*, (a name it has ſuſtained for many ages) and is by tradition reported to have been thrown hither by that gigantick champion Sir John Hautville, from Mays-Knolle-Hill, upwards of a mile diſtant, the place of his abode. The tump on that hill is alſo affirmed to have been the cleanings of the ſame man's ſpade; and ſo confident are the common people of the reality of the manœuvre, that a farm-houſe erected of late years near the coit, was diſtinguiſhed by the title of Hautville's-Coit Farm, which doubtleſs it will preſerve till records are no more. This ſtone was formerly of vaſt magnitude, being computed to have weighed upwards of thirty tons; but the waggon loads of fragments that have been broken from it at different times, for the purpoſe of mending the roads, have diminiſhed its conſequence as to bulk and appearance, though not as to antiquity or the deſign of its erection; for it was part of a very remarkable monument of antiquity, which has diſtinguiſhed this pariſh for many ages, and has diverted the ſteps of many a traveller.

It ſtands in an incloſure northeaſtward from the church, and conſiſts of the remains of four aſſemblages of huge ponderous ſtones, forming two circles, an oblong, and an ellipſis. The firſt, or largeſt circle, part of which is croſſed by an old hedge-row, is weſtward from the other parts, and is three hundred feet in diameter, compoſed of fourteen large ſtones, ſome of which are fallen and lie flat upon the ground; the ſecond circle eaſtward is eighty-four feet in diameter, and conſiſts of eight ſtones; the oblong, conſiſting of five ſtones, ſtands between the two circles, but rather inclining to the ſouth; and at the ſoutheaſt extremity of all is the ellipſis, which is forty feet in length, and has ſeven ſtones, one of them placed as it were centrically, and out of the line of arrangement. The ſtones which form the ſecond or inner circle are the largeſt; one of thoſe on the weſt ſide being nine feet high, and twenty-two feet in circumference, and would upon a calculation weigh upwards of fifteen tons. It ſeems to be a compoſition of pebbles, grit, and other concrete matter, and never to have been hewn from the rock.

This



This part, though in itself immense, and occupying a large extent of ground, appears to be only the centre of the stupendous building. Doubtless there were many avenues to it, and Hautville's-coit seems to have served as part of a portal to one of them. There were also other outworks, one of which, consisting of three prodigious stones, placed in a triangular form, still remains on a small eminence, in an orchard belonging to Mr. Fowler, southwest from the church. Two of these stones are standing; the largest measuring ten feet in height, and six feet and a half in width; the one that is fallen is fourteen feet long, and eight feet wide.<sup>a</sup>

Dr. STUKELEY calls this last-mentioned monument *the Cove*; and, with other antiquarians, contends that the whole of this singular work, as well as Stonehenge and Abury in Wiltshire, was a temple erected by the British Druids.<sup>b</sup> And WOOD, in his account of Bath, refers it to the Pythagorean planetary system, adopted by the same people, who, according to some writers, professed to understand not only the form and magnitude of the universe in general, and of the earth in particular, but also the courses of the stars, and their several revolutions.<sup>c</sup>

Future antiquaries perhaps will not rest satisfied with either of these opinions, and probably hereafter the pen of some able writer, considering the vicinity of *Wansdike*, will more minutely trace its origin, and define it a trophy intended to commemorate some signal victory obtained on that important rampart, where so much blood was shed by the arms of Britons and Celtick barbarians. The many camps, rampires, military ways, and ancient reliques, that we see in this part of the country, are so many indications of that contending spirit which once animated the warlike inhabitants to defend their property against the invasions and assaults of foreigners.<sup>d</sup> The common people call this relique *The Wedding*, from a tradition that as a woman was going along to be married, she and all her attendants were at once converted into stones, and that it is an impiety to attempt reckoning their number.

There is within the precincts of this parish, and at no great distance from the stones above described, an ancient village called BELLUTON; but formerly *Belgetone*; of which if we admit the etymology, that it signifies the town of the *Belgæ*, it will add considerable weight to the conjecture that Stanton arose in consequence of the Belgick incursion.

We know but little of the landed history of Stanton, or its environs, before the Norman Conquest, when it was a part of that huge manor of Keynsham which included within its jurisdiction so many neighbouring villages and hamlets. It then consisted of ten hides.<sup>e</sup>

About this time great part of the place began to be possessed by a family who derived their names from it; of whom were Roger,<sup>f</sup> William, and Hugh de Stanton, who all possessed it, or at least a considerable part of it, soon after the arrival of the Normans.<sup>g</sup> Robert de Stanton accounted for two knights' fees in the time of Hen II.<sup>h</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Notes taken April 9, 1789.

<sup>b</sup> Itin. Curios. ii. 169.

<sup>c</sup> Description of Bath, ii. 148.

<sup>d</sup> See vol. i. p. 170.

<sup>e</sup> See the Domesday extract in Keynsham.

<sup>f</sup> Inquis. Gheld.

<sup>g</sup> Cart. Antiq.

<sup>h</sup> Lib. Nig. Scac. i.

and after him came Gefferey de Stanton, who had lands in Timsborough, Stowey, and other places in this neighbourhood, 8 Henry III.<sup>1</sup> One of this family bore the appellation of Drogo, or *Drew, de Stanton*, and gave it his name by way of distinction from another parish in this neighbourhood called Stanton-Prior, and from STANTON-WICK, a hamlet in this parish. Their descendants were chiefly resident here, and at Littleton in Wiltshire. 12 Edw. III. Walter Drew is certified to hold half a knight's fee in Stanton, which William de Stanton formerly held;<sup>k</sup> and 10 Henry IV. the same moiety, late the property of Roger Drew, was held by John de Montacute earl of Salisbury.<sup>1</sup> These Drewes were nearly allied to the Dinham's of Buckland and Corton.

The family of Choke were the subsequent possessors of this manor. 25 Henry VI. William Clerke, son and heir of Robert Clerke, granted to Richard Choke of Stanton-Drew, and Joan his wife, one messuage and one yard-land in the village of Stanton-Drew, formerly in the tenure of John Watkins.<sup>m</sup> And by another deed, dated 28 Henry VI. Richard Clerke of Bristol, granted to the said Richard Choke, a messuage in Stanton called *Milleplace*, with a fulling-mill, ten acres of land, and a messuage called *Selyes*.<sup>n</sup> This Richard Choke, who was an eminent person in his days, had a long suit with John Boteler, concerning his right and title to this manor, which terminated 32 Henry VI. by a final release from the said John Boteler to the said Richard Choke, of all his right in the manor of Stanton-Drew; in a messuage there situated called *Chokes*, another called *Prikkes*, a third called *Milleplace*, a fourth called *Champneys*, and a fifth called *Tiledhouse*, in *Playstrete*, with divers other lands and tenements.<sup>o</sup> This quitclaim was confirmed 34 Henry VI. by Edith Sampbroke, sister of the said John Boteler.<sup>p</sup> This Richard Choke was afterwards a knight, and Lord Chief Justice of England, and died seized of this manor in the reign of Ric. III. Sir John Choke, knt. grandson of the said Richard, conveyed the same 22 Henry VII. to Giles lord Daubney. After which it came to the possession of Sir John Cooper, bart. who died seized thereof, together with Stanton-Wick, in the year 1631, leaving Anthony-Ashley Cooper his son and heir. The manor is now the property of Peter Coates, esq.

The manor-house is an old venerable building, and was formerly embattled, and regularly fortified.

The manor of *Belluton* or *Belgetone*, was held by Eustace earl of Bulloigne, as parcel of the manor of Keynsham; and of him by Alured.

"Alured holds of the Earl, BELGETONE. Tovi held it freely in the time of King Edward, and gelded for four hides. The arable is four carucates. In demesne is one carucate and a half, with one servant, and five villanes, and two cottagers, with two ploughs. There is a mill of fifteen shillings rent, and twenty-two acres of meadow, and twenty acres of pasture. Wood four furlongs long, and two furlongs broad. It was worth three pounds, now four pounds."<sup>q</sup>

The manor of Belluton was possessed for a series of years by the Earls of Ormond. 14 Edw. III. Cecilia de la Hay held for the term of her life the manor of Belveton of

<sup>1</sup> Cart. Antiq.<sup>k</sup> Lib. Feod.<sup>1</sup> Ibid.<sup>m</sup> Rot. Claus. 25 Hen. VI.<sup>n</sup> Rot. Claus. 28 Hen. VI.<sup>o</sup> Rot. Claus. 32 Hen. VI.<sup>p</sup> Rot. Claus. 34 Hen. VI.<sup>q</sup> Lib. Domeſday.



the King in chief by the service of the fourth part of one knight's fee, remainder to James le Boteler earl of Ormond, and Eleanor his wife.<sup>†</sup> Which James Boteler died seized of the same 6 Ric. II. leaving James his son and heir of the age of twenty-two years.<sup>‡</sup> Elizabeth his wife surviving him had this manor in dower.<sup>§</sup> James Butler, the fifth earl of Ormond, knight of the garter, and lord treasurer, was in 1449 created Earl of Wiltshire by King Henry VI. But after the battle of Towton, where Lancaster was defeated, he was attainted for high treason, and was beheaded at Newcastle in 1461. By which attainder the manor of Belluton came to the crown, and was granted 2 Ric. III. to Nicholas Baker and Elizabeth his wife, to hold during their lives, or either of them longer living.<sup>||</sup> In the time of Queen Elizabeth John Bisse, merchant of the city of Bristol, was lord of this manor; and in the fourteenth year of that reign, sold it with Pensford and other lands to Henry Becher, citizen and haberdasher of the city of London.<sup>\*</sup> It now belongs to the Rev. Mr. Adams.

The church of Stanton-Drew was appropriated to the church of Wells by Bishop Robert Burnell, and was taxed in 1292 at eighteen marks and a half; a pension of twenty shillings being paid out of it to the prior of Bromere in Hampshire.<sup>†</sup> It is a vicarage in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster, and in the patronage of the arch-deacon of Bath. The Rev. Mr. Price is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and consists of a nave, chancel, north and south aisles, small chapel on the north side, and near it a tower, the belfry under which serves for the principal entrance into the church.

In the south side of the chancel is a neat mural monument of stone, with this inscription:—"In memory of Samuel Prigg, fifty years the worthy vicar of this parish, whose truly christian behaviour procured him the affections of his parishioners, and the esteem of the neighbourhood. He was constantly resident, and so zealous a performer of his duty, that even the extreme severity of the winter in 1739 could not deter him from persevering in it though then eighty years old, by which he contracted an illness that put a period to his well-spent life, 1739-40.

"James Bernard, of Crowcombe in this county, esq; his grandson, caused this monument, which is very unequal to his merits, to be erected to his memory, 1777."

In a chapel on the north side is an elegant mural monument of white marble, inscribed,—"To the memory of James Lyde, esq; who departed this life on the 12th day of March in the year of our Lord 1731, in the 62d year of his age. He was the eldest son of Cornelius Lyde, esq; whose monument is erected in this aisle. He was bred to merchandise in the city of Bristol, and followed that employment near thirty years with great integrity, reputation, and success. On the death of his father he retired to his estate in this parish, where he spent the remainder of his days in that tranquillity of mind and general esteem, which are the consequence and reward of an upright conduct flowing from a principle of real piety and universal benevolence. He married

<sup>†</sup> Rot. Fin. 14 Edw. III.

<sup>‡</sup> Efc.

<sup>§</sup> Ibid.

<sup>||</sup> Harl. MS. 433.

<sup>\*</sup> Licence to alienate.

<sup>†</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

Martha, one of the daughters of Mr. Michael Pope, of Bristol, merchant, by whom he had fourteen children; of whom six died in their infancy, and are buried in the parish church of St. James's in that city; as also their eldest son Cornelius, who died on the 29th of Jan. 1724, aged 27. Their children who lie buried in this aisle were, Mary, wife of Mr. Thomas Provis, who died Dec. 17, 1730, aged 26 years; James, who died Dec. 25, 1736, aged 26; Michael, who died Oct. 13, 1734, aged 20; Sarah, who died Jan. 21, 1737, aged 20; and Esther, who died Aug. 19, 1734, aged 17 years. Martha, his relict, erected this monument to his memory in the year 1738." Arms, *Azure*, an eagle with two necks displayed, *or* Lyde; impaling *Argent*, two chevrons *gules*; on a canton of the second an escallop *or*, Pope.

In the same chapel:—"Near this monument lyeth the body of Cornelius Lyde, of this parish, esq; who departed this life on the 25th of July, in the year of our Lord 1717, aged 77. He was a gentleman of great piety and integrity, and served his country honourably in the commission of the peace during the whole reign of King William. Here also lyeth the body of Mary his wife, with whom he lived in great love above fifty years. She died on the 8th day of June 1715, aged 73. She bred up eight sons and three daughters, to whom she was very indulgent; and a bright pattern of virtue and piety."

On a very neat mural monument of white marble in the same chapel, is this inscription:—"Near this place lyeth the body of Anna-Maria, the wife of Lyonel Lyde, of the city of Bristol, esq; who died the 24th of Feb. 1729, aged 30 years. Also the bodies of their sons Benjamin and William."

In the same chapel is another elegant mural monument of white marble, thus inscribed:—"Here is interred the body of Sir Michael Foster, one of the Judges of the court of King's-Bench, who was born Dec. 16, 1689, and died Nov. 7, 1763. Dame Martha his wife, the eldest daughter of James Lyde, esq; is also here interred. She died May 15, 1758, in the 57th year of her age." Arms, *Argent* a chevron *vert*, between three bugle-horns *sable*, an escutcheon of pretence *azure*, an eagle displayed *or*.

On the north side of the middle aisle is a mural monument of stone, with this inscription:—"In memory of Elizabeth Adams, the wife of John Adams, of this parish, esq; who departed this life Sept. 15, 1768, aged 68. She was daughter of John Lyde, of the parish of Chelwood, esq; and granddaughter of Cornelius Lyde, esq; whose remains lie interred in this church. She was a person of great piety. Also Lyde Adams, son of the said John and Elizabeth Adams; and also Lyde Adams, and Sarah Adams, their grandchildren; all died in their infancy."

In the fourth aisle is a mural monument of yellow marble, bordered with black, and terminated by an obtuse cone, on which, under a festoon, is a small oval tablet of white marble, containing this memorial:—"Near this place lie the remains of Elizabeth Lyde, relict of James Lyde, esq; jun. who erected this monument to the memory of his father and mother."

On the tablet of the basement below, is inscribed,—"Near this place lie the remains of David Hopkins, esq; captain in the militia in the reign of King James II.

He



He was hospitable to his neighbours, and charitable to the poor. Died Oct. 1, 1730. Also Mrs. Elizabeth Hopkins, relict of the above James Hopkins, who was descended from the ancient and noble family of the Zouches. A sincere christian; died Sept. 1, 1758." Arms, *Sable*, on a chevron between three pistols *or*, as many roses *gules*, Hopkins; impaling, *Gules*, bezantée, a canton *ermine*, Zouch.

On the chancel floor:—"Here lyeth the body of Madam Penelope Selleck, wife of John Selleck, of this parish, esq; and daughter of Sir John Newton, bart. who died the 28th of May 1722, aged 63 years."

On an adjoining stone:—"Hic jacet corpus Johannis Selleck, arm. filii Johannis Selleck, sacrae theologiae doctoris, canonis residentiarii, et archidiaconi Wellen;. duas duxit uxores: prima fuit Elizabetha, filia Gulielmi Cooke, de Highnam in comitatu Glocestriae, arm. secunda Penelope filia Johannis Newton, de Barr-court in dcō comitatu Glocestriae, baronetti, obiit 19<sup>o</sup> die Aprilis, Anno Domini 1719, ætatis suæ 80."

On the floor in the middle aisle:—"Here resteth in hope of a happy resurrection, the body of William Cox, gent. who departed this life the 27th day of Nov. 1673. Here also lyeth the body of Anthony Skutt, esq; who departed this life the 7th day of January 1587."

Here lyeth the body of the pious Lady Martha Covper, wife of Sir John Covper, knight, father of Anthony Skutt, esq; who dyed Nov. 16, —."

In memorie of Major Edward Bull, of Wellow in the county of Somersfet, gent. who departed this life May the 19th, 1685."

On the floor in the fourth aisle:

"Here lieth the body of David Hopkins, gent. (was also captain of the train-band) who died June the 12th, Anno Domini 1697."

Round a flat stone:—"Here lyeth, in hopes of a joyful resurrection, the body of Thomas Hyppisley, gent. who departed this life and was born, to heaven, August the 11th, Anno Domini 1678."

On another stone near it:

"VNDER : NEATH THIS TOMB : HERE DOTH LY  
THE BODY : OF DEBORAH HYPPISLEY,  
IN EIGHTY-TO DEATH HER DID CALL  
SEPTEMBER THE 20 SHE LEFT US ALL."

In several parts of the floor are stones, having on their surface the worn portraitures of ancient personages.

BENEFACTORS to this parish.

"Sept. 12, 1772. Mrs. Eliza Lyde, relict of James Lyde, esq; gave one hundred pounds in trust to John Hooper, esq; of Walcot near Bath, and Peter Coates, esq; of this parish, and their heirs for ever. The interest thereof to be expended in teaching six poor girls in this parish to read and knit. And if it should be more than sufficient for

for that purpose, the surplus to be laid out in books for the use of these poor girls, who are to be always chosen by the majority of a vestry. And the overseers of the poor for the time being are to see that this interest money is properly applied to the uses above-mentioned. The said Mrs. Eliza Lyde gave also by will twenty shillings a year for ever, payable out of her estate in this parish, to buy pious books for the use of the poor inhabitants of Stanton-Drew, to be distributed by the vicar or curate thereof for the time being.

“ Mr. William Sage gave ten shillings a year for a sermon to be preached on Palm-Sunday; and twenty shillings a year to the poor not receiving alms, for ever.

“ Charles Chancellor, who died March 16, 1784, and lies buried in the belfry, under the bell which he was used to ring, left ten shillings to be distributed to the poor in bread on March 16th, (the day whereon he died) or the Sunday following.”

The parsonage-house is a curious piece of antiquity. On a dead window, which has horrid figures at the corners, are two armorial shields cut in the stone. On the one are, Three garbs within a bordure engrailed; on the other, On a fesse, a mitre, with labels expanded between three bucks' heads cabossed in chief, and in base as many pheons. The last coat is for bishop Thomas Beckington.

## S T A N T O N - P R I O R

(So called from its having formerly belonged to the priors of Bath)

IS situated on the east side of this hundred, and the confines of that of Wellow, in a fine woody vale, surrounded with gently rising hills in fine cultivation. The whole face of the country bears strong traits of antiquity. At a small distance northward from the church is a large and long insulated knoll, called *Stanton-Bury-hill*, on which is a spacious camp containing upwards of thirty acres. The principal part of the fortifications seems to have been westward; the main rampart runs from the northwest point to the length of one hundred and eighty yards, forming a terrace about five feet high, from which is a fine prospect of the rich vale of Avon, and the city of Bath at its extremity, the Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, and Monmouthshire hills. From the end of this terrace, eastward, runs a trench seven feet in depth, dividing the whole hill from east to west, and being one hundred yards in length from north to south, where it turns in a small curve, humouring the sweep of the hill. The southern edge has but little appearance of fortification; no more has the western, the descent on every side being very steep and precipitous. It has always been thought that this was an encampment of the Romans, and their coins have been frequently discovered in the valley underneath. But as it stands near *Wansdike*, hostilities might have commenced on this important pass before



before the arrival of the Roman arms; and the Romans might afterwards have used a place so well fitted to their hands. It is curious to observe, that throughout the length of that old boundary, which has been so frequently mentioned, from its entrance into this county at Bath-Hampton to its immersion into the Channel, there are places, whose names and appearance indicate the hand of war, and transmit to posterity the ferocious actions of our hardy forefathers. *Hampton* on the Avon signifies the *old fortified town*; on the hill above it are several old intrenchments. The *Barracks* or *Barrows*, beyond Lyncombe, are very ancient places of sepulture. *Barrow-hill*, betwixt those and Inglishcombe is perhaps the largest *tumulus* in the world. At Inglishcombe is a castle of very remote antiquity. The camp at *Stanton-Prior* follows next upon the course of the ditch. The name of *Publow*, as we have before observed, is very ancient. The monument at *Stanton-Drew* perpetuates some signal victory. *Harelane*, leading to *Mays-knoll*, another very ancient fortification, signifies the *Military Road*; and *Hareclive*, near Broadfield-Down, is the *Military Rock*, where probably blood was shed in defending the pass to the neighbouring valley. In so late days as these it would be absurd to expatiate on conjectures at what exact point of time, or in what particular manner, the events arose which have thus commemorated the places above-mentioned; but they still remain standing monuments of heroic actions, and posterity will ever view them with that pleasing surprize which attends the survey of past illustrious deeds, reminding us that *We have been*.

The village of Stanton was possessed by the Saxon kings, and some time before the Conquest was given to the priory of Bath; it consisted, as we are informed by *Domesday-Book*, of three hides.

"The church itself holds STANTONE. In the time of King Edward it gelded for "three hides. The arable is three carucates. Thereof in demesne is half a hide, and "there is one carucate, and five servants, and four villanes, and three cottagers, with "two ploughs. There are twelve acres of meadow, and thirty acres of pasture, and "thirty acres of coppice wood. It was and is worth three pounds."

The prior of Bath's lands in this place were in 1293 rated at forty-seven shillings and six-pence,<sup>b</sup> and 5 Edw. I. he had a charter of free-warren in the same.<sup>c</sup> After the suppression of that monastery, King Henry VIII. in the 31st year of his reign, granted this manor to Thomas Horner, esq; who 35 Henry VIII. sold it to Gerard Erington, gent. and he likewise 6 Edw. VI. conveyed the same with the advowson of the church to William Rosewell, esq. 2 Dec. 41 Eliz. the said William Rosewell had licence to alienate the manor, with its appertinances, and divers lands in Stanton, to William Richman. After which it passed through a variety of other hands, and is now the property of William Gore Langton, esq.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster, and in the gift of the lord of the manor. The Rev. Dr. Phillott is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Laurence. It is a small building of one pace, with an embattled tower at the west end.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> Taxat. Temporal.

<sup>c</sup> Cart. 5 Edw. I. n. 23.

In the chancel floor, on a white marble, is this inscription:—"Here lie the remains of the Reverend Samuel Purlivent, who departed this life March 7, 1775, in the 66th year of his age."

On the north side of the church is a lofty mural monument, containing the effigies of a man and woman in ancient habits, and over their heads, under a circular arch, the figure of a man dressed in the habiliments of the church. On the sides of the monument are the effigies of a man and woman, and several children in cloaks. This monument commemorates Thomas Cox, esq; who died in 1650; Joan his wife, and several of their children.

In a corner near the chancel is a mural monument of marble, inscribed to the memory of Robert Long, esq; who died in 1697.

This parish gave birth in 1598 to Gilbert Sheldon, who, after having been fellow and warden of All-Souls College in Oxford, was in 1660 made Bishop of London; in 1663, Archbishop of Canterbury; and in 1667, chosen Chancellor of the university of Oxford, in the room of Lord Clarendon. The theatre there erected by him will perpetuate his name to posterity. He died Nov. 9, 1677.

## FILTON, ALIAS WHITCHURCH.

THIS village is three miles south from Bristol, and in the turnpike-road from that city through Pensford and Chewton to Wells. Its situation is on high ground; but bounded by still higher on its western extremity, where a lofty ridge of mountain, extending from Mays-Knoll to Dundry-Brow, overlooks a vast extent of country.

The lands of this parish are in general a stiffish loam, with clay at the depth of about one foot, and are well cultivated throughout. In the western part on the waste is found the *lapis hæmatites*, or blood-stone, the powder of which has in all ages been esteemed a sovereign remedy in every kind of hæmorrhage, and in ulcers of the lungs. Germany, Italy, and Spain, are the countries where it is more commonly produced, and the sort mostly recommended is that found here, which is white, transparent, and little mixed with extraneous particles.

A fine spring, called *Saltwell*, rises on the west side of the road from this village to Bristol, whence a small rivulet emerging runs through Brislington, and through that very romantick glen of *Newick* into the river Avon at St. Anne's.

The wood is chiefly elm, of which there is a tree in a farm barton here, remarkably large, measuring in its body nineteen feet in circumference, and each of its limbs, which are ten in number, being considerable timber.

The first name of this place arose from a very ancient town, seated in the long forgotten chace of *Filwood*, northwest from the present village, whence it had its name, and



and where, in after days, the abbots of Keynsham had a grange, a chapel, and fundry lands and tenements. But a church having been erected on the more eastward part of the territory where once had stood a cell or chapel of St. Whyte, an ancient British saint, and Filton thenceforth running to depopulation and decay, this district, by reason of its increase of inhabitants emigrating from their pristine dwellings, came to be denominated sometimes by one name and sometimes by the other, and still retains the indiscriminate appellation of FILTON, *alias* WHITCHURCH.

At the time of the Conquest it was part of the fifty hides of Keynsham, and was afterwards granted by William de Clare earl of Gloucester, to the Austin Canons founded by him on his demesnes in that town. King Edw. II. confirmed the grant, and it remained with that abbey till its dissolution, when it was attached with other lands to the jointure of Queen Catherine; after whose decease King Edward VI. in the fourth year of his reign, granted the manor of *Fylton*, *alias* *Whitchurch*, to Sir John St. Loe, knt. for the term of sixty years. Three years after which the said Sir John St. Loe assigned all his interest in the manor and the tithes of this parish to Edward St. Loe, esq; his younger son. This Edward St. Loe was of Stanton-Drew, where the family had a fair mansion, built castlewise, and strengthened at the angles with embattled towers. The said Edward, by deed dated Oct. 16, 4 Eliz. assigned his lease of the manor of Whitchurch to Hugh Smyth, of Long-Ashton, esq. Soon after which Queen Elizabeth, by patent bearing date 10 Feb. in the 21st year of her reign, granted the manor of Filton, *alias* Whitchurch, to Edward Downing and John Walker, esqrs. The said Downing and Walker, Dec. 10, the year following, conveyed the manor to Matthew Smyth, esq; and his heirs; from which Matthew Smyth it has descended to Sir John Hugh Smyth, bart. and Edward Gore, esq; the present possessors.

The tithes of Filton, *alias* Whitchurch, were granted by King James I. in the seventh year of his reign, to Francis Morris and Francis Phelipps in fee; they the 29th day of January that same year granted and sold the same to Sir Hugh Smyth, knt. and his heirs. And 14 June, 3 Car. I. the King confirmed the manor and tithes of Whitchurch to Lady Elizabeth Gorges for life, and after her decease to Thomas Smyth, esq; her son by Sir Hugh Smyth, knt. her first husband, and his heirs for ever.

A manor called *Lyon's-Court* is situated westward from the village of Whitchurch, and its mansion is still remaining. It belonged to the family of Lyons (a family distinct from those of the name at Ashton) so early as the thirteenth century, who bore for their arms *Argent*, two lions rampant respecting *sable*, and were retainers to the abbots of Keynsham, under whom they held their territory. From David de Lyons issued David, Robert, Stephen, Ralph, Thomas, (and Roger the brother of Thomas, who died without issue) Thomas, Thomas, and Nicholas; which Nicholas had one son Richard, who died without issue, and also a daughter, Edith, who inherited his estates, and married Thomas Holbeach, the son of David Holbeach, esq; of the county of Lincoln. Which Thomas Holbeach by the said Edith his wife had issue another Thomas, who married Agnes, daughter of Thomas Triftram, and by her was father of John Holbeach, who married Elizabeth daughter of Richard Bole, descendant of the Boles of Lymington in Hampshire, and had issue by her John Holbeach, whose wife was Barbara, the

daughter of John Coxwell, of Ablington in the county of Gloucester; he had also a daughter, Mary, married to Arthur Cam, whose progeny were seated in the county of Bedford. The said John Holbeach, by his wife Barbara, had issue Nathaniel Holbeach, who is styled of Filton, alias Whitchurch, in 1623. He married Elizabeth, daughter of John Trevelyan, of Nettlecombe in this county, esq; and by her had issue three sons, John, Thomas, Nathaniel; and four daughters, viz. Elizabeth, Margaret, Martha, and Urith. A monument in the church perpetuates the remainder of this ancient family, whose estate here is now possessed by Francis Adams, esq.

The living is a perpetual curacy, in the deanery of Redcliff and Bedminster. The lords of the principal manor are the patrons, and the Rev. John Collinson the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Nicholas. It consists of a nave, chancel, south aisle, a chapel on the north side the belfry, another chapel on the south side of the chancel, and a tower containing two bells. The north chapel is very ancient; and in former times an obit was observed in it for Thomas Gay, who was steward and treasurer of the monastery of Keynsham, and lies buried here under a large flat stone, inscribed,

“*Hic jacet Thomas Gay, qui dedit ad resuscitationē istī ecclīe āple admodū: corpū que suū sepeliendū in capella Scī Nicolai de Whitchurche. Cujus aīe ppiciet De⁹. Decimo nono die mēs⁹ Januarij Anno Dñi M<sup>o</sup>cccc<sup>o</sup>xx<sup>o</sup>ii<sup>o</sup>.*”

His ancestors were of Goldworthy in the county of Devon, where they had an estate, and bore for their arms, *Or*, on a fesse *sable*, between three escallop shells *azure*, five lozenges *argent*. The south chapel has been the burial-place of the Lyons and the Holbeach families; and on the southern wall is a handsome marble monument with this inscription:

“This monument was erected for the commemoration of the honourable, as well as antient family of the Holbeach’s, at the expence of Mrs. Sybilla, the daughter of Thomas Lloyd, gent. by Mary, relict of the last hereunder mentioned (one excepted) John Holbeach, esq; A. D. 1735.

From David

Thomas

Thomas

John

John

Nathaniel

John

} Holbeach, esq;

Who had issue John and Frances.

The said Mrs. Frances Holbeach was the last of the family, who died October the 30th, 1732, aged 63 years.

“Near to this place lies buried the mortal part of the above-mentioned Sybilla Lloyd, who left this world the ..... day of April 1745, aged 71 years.

“Near under lieth the body of Elizabeth Evett, of the parish of Old-Cleeve in this county, (to the abovesaid Mrs. Sybilla Lloyd distantly related) who, at the age of 25 years,



years, died the 3d of June 1744." Arms, on a large shield above the monument, on a hatchment, and in the window on stained glass; 1. *Argent*, a chevron engrailed *sable*: Holbeach. 2. *Argent*, two lions respecting each other *sable*: Lyons. 3. *Argent*, three torteaux, a label of three points *azure*: Tristram. 4. *Argent*, three bulls' heads cabossed *sable*: Bole of Lymington. 5. *Or*, on a chief *azure*, three lions rampant of the first: Lisley. 6. *Argent*, on a bend *sable* three close helmets *or*: Compton. 7. *Or*, on a bend engrailed *gules*, three crosses crosslets fitché *argent*. 8. *Gules*, a cross moline *argent* between four mullets counterchanged.

On the left hand of the above monument is another of white and Sienna marble inscribed,—“ In memory of James Colston, of this parish, gent. who died 22 Feb. 1786, aged 67.”

Against the south wall of the aisle is a small mural monument of stone, inscribed as follows:—“ Hereunder lyeth y<sup>e</sup> body of Thomas, the son of Thomas and Joane Whippie, of y<sup>e</sup> Green in this parish, who departed this life y<sup>e</sup> 28th day of June, Anno Dom. 1699, aged 56 years. Near this place lyeth the body of Hannah, wife of the above-named Thomas Whippie, of this parish, who departed this life the 7th day of December, Anno Dom. 1708.”

At the west end of this aisle, and under the gallery in the nave, are many other inscriptions to the family of Whippie, on the floor; as also the following memorial:

SARA  
LVKYNES,  
1599.

Against the north wall of the chancel is a neat marble monument with this memorial:—“ Near this place lies the body of Richard Goodhind, gent. whose ancestors for many generations resided in this parish. He departed this life the 2d day of May 1754, aged 49. Also the body of Ann his only daughter and heiress: she departed the 7th day of February 1762, in the 13th year of her age. To perpetuate the memory of an affectionate husband and dutiful daughter, Mary Goodhind caused this monument to be erected.” Arms, *Gules*, a fesse between three fleurs-de-lis *or*; impaling *argent* three greyhounds current *sable*. On an inescutcheon *gules* three bezants in pale.

In the chancel floor there are many other inscriptions, nearly obliterated, to the memory of the same family.

Against the north wall of the nave, near the door, there is a neat mural monument of marble, containing the following inscription:—“ Beneath a stone, at the eastward part of this ile, lie the remains of George Stocker, of this parish, esq; a descendant of the antient family of the Stockers in Chilcompton, who (having by his own industry acquired considerable wealth, of which his friends and the poor were partakers) departed this life Jan<sup>y</sup> 3<sup>d</sup>, 1776, aged 76. Also of John Stocker, gent. (nephew to the former) and of Katharine his first wife. He died 14<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1777, in the 65th year of his age. She died 18<sup>th</sup> December 1748, aged 50. In memory of whom George (their only son) caused this monument to be erected.” Arms, Gyronny of six *azure* and *argent*, three parrots *vert*.

On the other side of the north door is another monument of marble, inscribed,—  
 “Near this place are deposited the remains of Isaac Emery, of this parish, gent. He departed this life the 22d April 1761, aged 70 years. Also Thomas, his son, who departed this life the 19th Sept’ 1761, aged 27 years. Also Charity Emery, wife of Isaac Emery, gent. Also Ann Edols, wife of Richard Edols, gent. and daughter of Isaac and Charity Emery, died 24th March 1776, aged 35 years.”

The pews or seats in this church, a small number excepted, are built of oak, are low and open, run at right angles from side to side, and are nearly coeval with the Reformation, when (exclusively of the nobility, patrons, and clergy) people sat in common, and without priority or distinction.

**BENEFACTORS.** “Sir John Smith, late of Long-Ashton, kn’ and bar’, gave forty shillings to be distributed on St. Thomas-day to twenty poor people, share and share alike, at the discretion of the minister and churchwarden yearly for ever.

“Mrs. Frances Holbeach, spinster, (daughter of John Holbeach, esq;) gave thirty pounds; ten shillings of the profits thereof to the minister, for preaching a sermon Shrove-Tuesday in the morning, and the remainder to be distributed to the poor in bread the same day yearly for ever.

“Mr. Benjamin Tippet gave five pounds, the profits to the poor for ever.

“Mr. William Opie, sometime sheriff of the city of Bristol, gave to this parish three pounds fourteen shillings yearly for the preaching a sermon in this church once a fortnight on Sunday. He also gave to the poor of this parish twenty shillings, to be laid out in sixpenny bread and distributed on Christmas-day yearly for ever.

“Sir Hugh Smyth, of Long-Ashton, knight of the Bath, and baronet, gave twenty pounds, the profits to the poor for ever.

“Thomas Jones gave five pounds, the profits to the poor for ever.”

There was a chantry here, endowed with twenty-four acres of arable and pasture land lying in Whitchurch, 1 Edw. III.\*

\* Rot. Fact. Calef. 1 Ed. III. m. 10.





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THE HUNDRED  
OF  
KILMERSDON

LIES between the hundred of Chewton on the west, and that of Frome on the east; being severed from the former by the Roman Fosse-road, which enters this hundred at Radstock, and runs throughout its whole extent towards Ivelchester. This hundred was anciently vested in the Norman family of Salignac, de Saligniaco, or Sulleny, lords of the manor of Kilmersdon, from which it had its name. John de Sulleny was living in the time of King John, and was father of Andrew de Sulleny, who had issue Ralph de Sulleny, lord of this hundred 28 Henry III. To him succeeded Geoffrey de Sulleny, who lived at Kilmersdon in the latter part of the same reign, and was father of Andrew, and grandfather of another Andrew de Sulleny, who had lands in Babington of the grant of Philip de Albany. There were several branches of this family settled in Cornwall, Devon, and in Brittany in France, (where the name is not at present infrequent) and they bore for their arms, Quarterly, *Argent* and *gules*. This hundred contains ten parishes.

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KILMERSDON.

THIS parish stands nearly in the centre of the hundred, in a woody vale, about ten miles east from the city of Wells. Its ancient name was *Chenemeresdone*; but it is not distinguished as a manor till after the Conquest, nor do we find any further account of it in the Norman survey than the following:

“ In CHENEMERESDONE is half a hide of land. It is worth ten shillings. Bishop Peter held it; now it is in the King’s hands.”

• Lib. Domesday.

In

In the time of King John, John de Sulleney granted to Alexander de Arfick, in free marriage with Emma his sister, a third part of this manor, which descended by hereditary right to Hugh de Tywe; which Hugh gave the said third part to Walter his son in marriage with Emma daughter of Thomas de Whelton, (or Walton, a village in this parish.) After the death of the said Walter de Tywe, Emma his relict married to her second husband Adam Nortoft, and they two joined in selling this third part of the manor to Robert Burnel, bishop of Bath and Wells, who exchanged the same for other lands with William Botreaux,<sup>b</sup> who had a charter of free-warren in all his demesne lands in this parish from King Edw. I.<sup>c</sup> From which William Botreaux this portion of the manor descended to William lord Botreaux, and afterwards passed by heiresses to the families of Hungerford and Hastings.

The other portions of the manor were very early the property of the family of De Albaniaco or D'Aubeney, lords of South-Petherton in this county, of whom Philip D'Aubeney died seized thereof 22 Edw. I. leaving Elias D'Aubeney his son and heir; by whose successors it was held till the whole became united in the family of Hastings, progenitors of the earls of Huntingdon. 31 Eliz. Henry earl of Huntingdon sold the manor of Kilmerston, with that of Walton, which was a member thereof, to John Spencer, citizen and alderman of London; from whom it came in process of time to the family of Goodman, and from them by a coheirefs to Twyford, and is now jointly held by Samuel Twyford and Thomas Samuel Jolliffe, esqrs.

By the ancient custom of this manor, the widow of a tenant was entitled to all her husband's copyhold lands for life, which she forfeited if she remarried, or proved incontinent; but in the latter case, if she came into the next court after the transgression, riding astride upon a ram, and made an open acknowledgment in a certain form of words before the lord of the manor, or his steward, she was readmitted to her lands without further fine or ceremony.<sup>d</sup> The like custom prevailed in the manors of East and West-Enbourn in Berkshire, Torre in Devonshire, and many other parts of England.

The hamlets belonging to this parish are,

1. CHARLTON, where is a good seat of Thomas Samuel Jolliffe, esq. Here formerly was a chapel, and many large stone coffins have been found.

2. COLEFORD, which in the Conqueror's time was parcel of the estates of Roger de Curcelle, and was thus surveyed:

“ Aluric holds of Roger, COLFORDE. The same held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three furlongs of land. The arable is half a carucate; but  
“ there is one carucate in demesne. It is worth two shillings.”

3. LUCKINGTON and WALTON were both manors at the time of the Conquest; the former was the property of Alured de Ispania:

“ Alured himself holds LOCHINTONE. Alwi held it in the time of King Edward,  
“ and gelded for five hides. The arable is five carucates. In demesne are two caru-

<sup>b</sup> Esc.

<sup>c</sup> Cart. 13 Ed. I. m. 6.

<sup>d</sup> Blount's Law Dictionary, tit. *Free-Bench*. Fragmenta Antiq. 266. Dodsworth's MSS. Collections, vol. 154, fol. 8.

<sup>e</sup> Lib. Domelday.

“ cates,



"cates, and three servants, and eight cottagers, with one plough. There is a mill of ten shillings rent, and twelve acres of meadow. Wood half a mile long, and three furlongs broad. When he received it, it was worth six pounds, now three pounds."

Walton was the land of Edmund Fitzpain.

"The same Edmund holds WALTUNE. Elmar held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is four carucates. There is in demesne one carucate, and one villane, and six cottagers, with one plough and a half. There are six acres of meadow, and forty acres of pasture. Coppice wood one furlong in length and breadth. It was formerly worth four pounds, now forty shillings."

Both the manors of Luckington and Walton were sometime held by the family of Botreaux, of the priory of Longleat in the county of Wilts.<sup>b</sup>

4. LYPAT, where anciently was an estate given by a family of that name to the priory of Bradenstoke in the county of Wilts.

At NEWBERRY, or NEWBOROUGH, a spot southward from Kilmerston, which formerly gave name to a family, is a very good house belonging to Dr. Paget. On the hill is an ancient Roman camp.

The church of Kilmerston was appropriated by William de Erleigh to the priory of Buckland in this county; and in the return made A. D. 1335, by Bishop Ralph de Salopia, to the King's writ, directing him to send an account of the possessions of the prior and brethren of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem within this diocese, this church is certified to be worth twenty-four marks.<sup>c</sup>

It is a vicarage in the deanery of Frome, and in the patronage of the King. The Rev. Richard Graves is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, and is a handsome edifice, consisting of a nave, chancel, and north aisle, with a stately tower at the west end.

Along the top of the communion-rails is the following inscription in gold letters: "Thus was the thankfulness of the well-disposed expressed for staying the great plague 1625."

Here is a charity-school founded and endowed by the Rev. Henry Shute, late of St. Andrew's, Holborn, this town being his native place.

On the north wall of the chancel is a handsome mural monument of black, grey and white marble, on the tablet of which is this inscription:

"Near this place lies interred the body of Mary, one of the daughters and coheir-esses of Gabriel Goodman, esq; lord of this manour, and widow of William Hilliard, esq. Among many other charitable legacies, she gave 100l. to the poor of this parish. She died April 20, 1745, aged 77. Ann and Sarah Twyford, her nieces and

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid.

<sup>c</sup> Etc.

<sup>d</sup> Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

executrices,

executrixes, and only surviving issue of her sister Sarah, erected this monument in gratitude to her memory."

Arms, *Azure*, a chevron *argent* between three mullets *or*; Hilliard. Over all, on an escutcheon per pale *sable* and *ermine*, an eagle displayed *or*.

On the left hand of the communion-table is an elegant mural monument of white marble, inscribed,

"Sacred to the memory of the Rev. Robert Twyford, M. A. treasurer of the cathedral church of St. David's, and lord of this manour; a gentleman of a truly respectable character, modest, and unassuming; his great ambition was to approve himself a good man; the sweetness of his temper made him happy in himself, and he employed his abilities, his fortune, and authority, in rendering others so. And those many virtues which constituted his felicity in this life will, we trust, through the merits of Christ, make him completely happy to all eternity. He died April 27, 1776, aged 61."

Arms, *Argent*, two bars *sable*; on a canton of the last, a cinquefoil *or*.

To the right of the communion-table is another handsome monument of white marble, with this inscription:

"Near this place are deposited the remains of Mrs. Sarah Twyford, one of the ladies of this manour; whose decent piety, unaffected affability, and boundless charity, rendered her life honourable, her death regretted, and her memory revered. She departed this life the 11th of Jan. 1765, aged 86. James Twyford hath caused this monument of his gratitude and her virtues to be erected to his honoured benefactress."

On the south wall of the chancel:—"Near this place lyeth the body of Mrs. Ann Twyford, late lady of this manour; the eldest daughter of James Twyford, esq; by Sarah daughter of Gabriel Goodman, esq; formerly lord of this manour. She died unmarried March 12, 1765, aged 87 years."

## A S H W I C K

**I**S a parish on the Fosse, about three miles north from Shepton-Mallet. Its ancient name was *Escerwiche*, which it seems to have obtained from the quantity of ash-trees growing hereabout, *Acre* in the Saxon signifying ash, and *Wic* a village. In that part of the parish bordering on Mendip-hills is found a deep, heavy, green, and indurated clay, frequently in the shafts of the coal-pits, of which here are several. About the depth of 25 or 30 feet is also found a black friable marle, which would be excellent manure. At about the depth of eighteen feet is a stratum of pale yellow ochre very hard and ponderous, considerable quantities of which are raised and sent to the colour shops; but of late years mostly from another part of Mendip towards the northwest near



near the Harptrees. In this and several other parts of these hills are found several species of the *Secomia*, a kind of stone peculiar to Mendip.

On the southwest side of this parish, on the hill, and within half a mile of the foss-road, is a Roman camp called by the name of *Masbury-Castle*. It consists of a double rampire and ditch, about three furlongs in circuit, having two opposite entrances, guarded by oblique turns of the vallum, which is from fifteen to twenty feet deep. William of Worcester, from vulgar tradition, informs us, that this castle was built by a giant of the name of *Mark*; that in his time it was in ruins; but that there still remained on the spot upwards of one hundred thousand cart-loads of stones.\*

The manor of Ashwick was parcel of the ancient possessions of the priory of Bath.

“The church itself holds *Escewicke*. In the time of King Edward it gelded for half a hide. The arable is half a carucate. There is one servant, and two villanes, rendering forty-two pence, and twelve acres of meadow, and three acres of coppice wood. It was and is worth forty-two pence.

“The whole of this land belonged to the said church in the time of King Edward, and could not be alienated from it.”<sup>b</sup>

The temporalities of the priory here were in the year 1293 valued at sixty-three shillings and four-pence.<sup>c</sup> It continued in the possession of that house for upwards of five hundred years, at the expiration of which being dissolved by Henry VIII. this and its other lands were taken away, and in the 31st of that reign this manor was granted to Thomas Horner, esq. 36 Henry VIII. the said Thomas Horner sold the capital messuage here to John Stidman and his heirs; and 37 Henry VIII. the manor and a messuage called *Careclift* to the same person; from whom it descended to Robert Stidman, probably his son and heir. It now belongs by inheritance to Matthew lord Fortescue, who bears for his arms, *Azure*, a bend engrailed *argent*, cotized *or*.

Great part of the hamlet of *OAKHILL* lies within this parish, standing southeastward from the village. It formerly belonged to the family of Horsey.<sup>d</sup> It is now only famous for a large brewery carried on with great reputation by Messrs. Jordan and Billingsley, both these gentlemen having good houses here. Mr. Billingsley's is newly built, and stands in a very romantick situation, in a fine fruitful vale, richly wooded with a variety of trees and shrubs on either side the slopes which bound its extent, and patched with immense rocks, which project through the foliage from the lofty brow of the cliffs. In the garden is an old summer-house, almost covered with ivy, in which Dr. James Foster, having embraced the obnoxious tenets of the dissentient dissenters, and retired hither out of the way of clamour and confusion, studied and penned many of his works. A small stone placed therein is inscribed to his memory in the following words:—“Sacred to the memory of the celebrated James Foster, D. D. who in this humble and retired mansion, secluded from the fury of bigots, and the cares of a busy world, spent several years; and composed many of those excellent discourses on natural religion and social virtue, (with the annexed offices of devotion) which have been read

\* Itin. p. 291.

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>c</sup> Taxat. Temporal.

<sup>d</sup> Esc.

with universal admiration during the last and present ages; and which, while they exhibit to posterity the most beautiful display of the divine attributes, and important duties of human life, will immortalize the name and memory of their learned and pious author."

Ashwick is a chapel to Kilmerston; the church, dedicated to St. James, contains nothing remarkable.

## B A B I N G T O N

**I**S a parish situated south from Kilmerston, in a flat woody country. It is noticed in the old record among the estates of Gefferey bishop of Coutances, as follows:

"Azeline holds of the Bishop, BABINGTON. Two thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for five hides. The arable is four carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and seven servants, and two villanes, and two cottagers, with three ploughs. There is a mill of forty pence rent, and twelve acres of meadow, and fifteen acres of pasture. Wood six furlongs long, and two furlongs broad. It was worth forty shillings, now sixty shillings."

In this place resided a family of its name from the time of Henry II. to that of Edw. III. and were people of great distinction. Sir John de Babington was lord of Babington 17 Edw. I. and bore for his arms ten plates. There were several branches of this family seated in Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, and other counties;<sup>b</sup> but their arms were different, viz. ten torteaux, sometimes with the addition of a lion rampant. Gervaise Babington was successively bishop of Landaff, Exeter, and Worcester, in the reigns of Queen Elizabeth and James I. and died A. D. 1610.

In the time of Edw. I. the manor of Babington was in the possession of John Ap-Adam, whose heirs are certified to hold the same, with the advowson of the chapel there, and the hamlet of MIDDLECOTE,<sup>c</sup> by the service of two knights' fees and a half. It was afterwards held by the Lords Botreaux, who had a charter of free-warren in their demesne lands within the parish. 14 Edw. I. William lord Botreaux held a fair in the village of Babington, and the advowson of the church of Babington. But the manor had sometime before been possessed by the Chedders, and passed by a coheirefs of Thomas Chedder, 21 Henry VI. to Sir John Newton, and by his son Richard

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> See Warton's Hist. of Kiddington, p. 38, 39, 40.

<sup>c</sup> Now a depopulated place. It belonged also at the Conquest to the Bishop of Coutances:—"Azeline holds of the Bishop MILLESCOTE. Two thanes held it of the church of Glastonbury, and could not be separated from it, and gelded for five hides and a half. The arable is five carucates. In demesne is one carucate and a half, and three servants, and nine villanes, and six bordars, and five cottagers, with five ploughs. There is a mill of six shillings and six-pence rent, and three acres of meadow. Pasture four furlongs long, and two furlongs broad, and as much wood. It was worth forty shillings, now four pounds." *Lib. Domesday.*



coheirefs, 1 and 2 Ph. and Mary, to Sir Thomas Griffin, knt. It afterwards came to the poffeffion of William Long, efq; and is now the property of Norton Knatchbull, efq; nephew of Mrs. Elizabeth Long.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Frome, and in the gift of Samuel Twyford, and Thomas Samuel Jolliffe, efqrs. The Rev. Mr. Batchelor is the prefent incumbent.

The church was built in the year 1750 by Mrs. Long; it is a fmall neat edifice, dedicated to St. Margaret.

The manfion of Mr. Knatchbull ftands near it, in a very pleafant fituation, being fheltered on the north by a fine wood at about a furlong diftance; between which and the houfe is a large piece of water. The pleafure grounds are prettily difpofed.

The chriftenings in this parifh are annually on an average fix; the burials four.

The expences of the poor here were in 1770, 61l. 15s. 7d.; in 1778, 89l. 8s. 7d.

## B U C K L A N D - D I N H A M

**L**IES eaftward from Babington, on the borders of the hundred of Frome. Its fituation is nearly on the eaftern brow of a hill, which overlooks feveral pleafant vales of mead and pafture. A fine fpring rifes at Moonleigh's, and from it a rivulet runs into the Frome. Another fpring iffues at Barrow-Hill, and forms a brook, which, after dividing this parifh from that of Elm, runs alfo into the river Frome. The turn-pike-road from Bristol to the town of Frome paffes through the village, which confifts of a long ftreet of mean houfes. It formerly was a large and very confiderable place, having a market on Tuesdays, a fair for three days, and a very large manufacture of woollen-cloth. Here was a market-crofs and town-houfe, where affizes were frequently held. This town arofe chiefly from the munificence of the Denhams its old lords, who gave it its name, and many of whom refided here in a noble manfion long fince level with the ground.

That it was in ancient times a very confiderable manor, appears from the great furvey of William the Conqueror, which fays,

“Donno [a King's thane] holds BOCHELANDE. The fame held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for twelve hides. The arable is feven carucates. There are five ploughs, and eleven villanes, and five cottagers, and feven fervants, and forty acres of meadow, and thirty acres of coppice wood, and half a mile of pafture in length, and one furlong and a half in breadth, and a mill rendering feven fhillings. It was formerly worth eight pounds, now one hundred fhillings.”

The manor of Buckland came to the possession of the Dinhams soon after the Conquest. Of this family an account has already been given in the description of Corton, in the hundred of Horethorne,<sup>b</sup> to which the reader is referred; and it only remains here to say, that both this manor and that were held under the same name till dispersed by coheiresses in the time of Edw. IV. After which it was chiefly held in moieties or parcels. 30 Henry VIII. John lord Zouch and Seymour, son and heir of John lord Zouch, and Joan his wife, one of the daughters and coheirs of John lord Dinham, held two parts of the fourth part of this manor. 19 Henry VIII.<sup>c</sup> Sir William Compton, knt. held at his death a fourth part of the same, leaving Peter Compton his son and heir.<sup>d</sup> 33 Eliz. Henry lord Compton sold his part to Webb, and he to Hodges. And 36 Henry VIII. John earl of Bath sold a fourth part of the manor to Thomas Bamfeilde, esq. By which, and various other purchases the manor became jointly vested in the families of Bamfeilde and Hodges; and the share of the former is now inherited by Sir Charles Bampfylde, bart. that of the latter by Henry Strachey, of Sutton-Court, esq.

The church of Buckland-Dinham, valued in 1292 at fifteen marks,<sup>e</sup> is a peculiar and prebend in the cathedral of Wells. The Rev. Mr. Payne is the present prebendary and rector. The Rev. Mr. Ames is vicar.

The church stands in the deanery of Frome, and is dedicated to St. Michael;<sup>f</sup> it consists of a nave, chancel, and side ailes, with a tower at the west end, containing five bells.

In the north aile, on three stones in the floor, lie the effigies of Sir John Dinham and Joan his wife, with another of the same family. On raising one of these stones a few years since a human body was found beneath it in a stone coffin, which on being touched crumbled into dust. This Sir John Dinham, who lived in the time of Edw. II. founded a chantry in the church of Buckland, and gave twenty acres of arable land, two acres of meadow, and pasture for four oxen, with two mills, all in the parish of Buckland, to a chaplain to perform divine service in the church of St. Michael of Buckland, for the soul of the said John every day for ever.<sup>g</sup>

Colonel Warwick Bampfylde gave by will ten pounds per annum for ever to the poor of this parish, who do not receive collection.

There is a small hamlet called MURTREE or MORTRAY.

The parish of Buckland gave name to a very ancient and opulent family, who were lords of Hemington hard by.

<sup>a</sup> See p. 361, 362, of this vol.    <sup>b</sup> Inq. post Mort.    <sup>c</sup> Inq. capt. ap. Yevyll, 22 Jan. 20 Hen. VIII.

<sup>d</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

<sup>e</sup> Ecton, by mistake, says St. Mary.

<sup>f</sup> Inq. ad quod Damn. 19 Edw. II.





## H A R D I N G T O N.

**N**ORTHWARD from Buckland lies Hardington, a parish almost depopulated. It belonged to the Bishop of Coutances at the time that the Norman survey was drawn up, and in all probability had its name from Harding one of the Saxon thanes, who possessed considerable property in this neighbourhood.

“Ralph holds of the Bishop, **HARDINTONE**. Three thanes held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for four hides. The arable is four carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and four servants, and one villane, and seven cottagers, with three ploughs. There are thirty-six acres of meadow, and twelve acres of coppice-wood. It was and is worth four pounds. In this manor is one hide appertaining to **HAMINTONE**. Baldwin holds it, and has common pasture for this manor.”<sup>a</sup>

William and Alexander de Hardington were of this place in the time of Henry III.<sup>b</sup> The heirs of John Le Sore held the manors of Hardington and Wydergrave 9 Edw. II. by the service of one knight's fee.<sup>c</sup> John de Pederton was afterwards lord of this manor, and at his death left a daughter, Agnes, married to John Baumfilde, esq; whose son, Peter Baumfilde, possessed this estate, and transmitted it to his posterity; Sir Charles Warwick Bampfylde, bart. being the present owner. The manor-house, now in ruins, stood near the church; and there was a fine park stocked with deer, extending to the top of a hill from which there is an extensive and pleasing view.

The living is a rectory in the deanery of Frome, and in the gift of Sir Charles Warwick Bampfylde. The Rev. Mr. Hill is the present incumbent.

The church is a small structure, fifty feet long, and eighteen wide; a small tower stands at the west end.

In the chancel is a stately mural monument of white marble, inscribed,—“In memory of the honourable Colonel Warwick Bampfild, late of this place, esq; who deceased Dec. 6, 1694, aged 72. As also of John Bampfild, esq; his elder brother, and of Dame Margaret, wife of Sir James Drax, their sister; who, together with her husband, were interred in a vault in the parish church of St. John Zachariah, London, which was consumed in the great conflagration of that city in 1666, and not rebuilt. And likewise in memory of Thomas Bampfild, esq; their grandfather; and also of Thomas Bampfild, esq; their great-grandfather.” Arms, On a bend three mullets.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.<sup>b</sup> Cart. Antiq.<sup>c</sup> Esc.

## H E M I N G T O N

**I**S the next parish northwest from Hardington, situated on a gentle declivity, in a country well wooded and watered. This was one of the four manors which Baldwin de Excestre possessed in this county from the grant of King William the Conqueror.

“ Baldwin holds HAMITONE of the King. Siward held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for twenty-one hides. The arable is twenty carucates; thereof in demesne are eight hides, and there are four carucates, and eleven servants, and twenty-six villanes, and eight cottagers, with twelve ploughs. There are twelve acres of meadow, and fifty acres of coppice-wood. Pasture half a mile long, and half a mile broad. It was and is worth nineteen pounds. Of this land one hide lies in the common pasture of Hardintone, a manor of the Bishop of Coutances.”<sup>a</sup>

This Baldwin de Excestre, whose former name had been Baldwin de Brionis, was sheriff of the county of Devon, an office appertaining to the honour of Oakhampton, given him by King William the Conqueror. Richard, his eldest son, who was surnamed de Redvers, or Rivers, was by King Henry I. in the first year of his reign created Earl of Devon, and was the first person that ever enjoyed that honour; to which a number of manors, not only in Devonshire, but in this and other counties, were annexed for its dignity and support. Hemington was one of those manors, and an inquisition taken, 2 Edw. I. sets forth, that John de Courtney held the said manor of the King in capite by barony, by reason of its being a member of the barony of Oakhampton. And Hugh de Widworthy, Nicholas de St. Victore, and Roger de Moel, held half a knight's fee of the said John Courtney in the manor of Hemington by knight's service.<sup>b</sup> In this family of Courtney it continued till the time of Edw. IV. when Elizabeth one of the daughters and coheirs of Thomas Courtney earl of Devon, who was taken in the battle of Towton in 1461, transferred it by marriage to Sir Hugh Conway, knt. From that family it passed to Sir William Knevett, knt. and thence to the families of Buckland and Copplestone. 36 Henry VIII. Richard Buckland and Humphry Copplestone conveyed the manor with the rectory and advowson of the church of Hemington to Thomas and John Bampffield, esqrs.<sup>c</sup> in whose family it has continued till this time, and is now the estate of Sir Charles Warwick Bampfylde, bart.

Within this parish were formerly several considerable villages, having manerial rights under the lords of Hemington.

**HIGH-CHURCH**, which stands northeastward from Hemington, is said to have been the spot where the original parish-church stood. 1 Ric. II. Thomas Flory held a third part of a knight's fee in High-Church. 10 Henry IV. William Burleston was owner of this manor.<sup>d</sup> 1 Henry VI. Hugh Courtney earl of Devon died seized of the third part of one knight's fee, which William le Prous formerly held in Heigh-Church juxta Hemington.<sup>e</sup> This place is now reduced to one house, which is the ancient mansion of its lords, and the property of the Rev. Mr. Hill.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> Efc.

<sup>c</sup> Licence to alienate.

<sup>d</sup> Efc.

<sup>e</sup> Ibid.



Near High-Church is FALKLAND, another ancient manor, which gave name to a family. 10 Henry IV. Walter the son of John Folkland, who was outlawed for felony, held one messuage and ten shillings rent in Falkland of William Burleston as of his manor of High-Church.<sup>f</sup> In the time of Henry V. Nicholas de St. Vigore held the fourth part of one knight's fee here. It now belongs to Sir Charles Warwick Bamfylde, bart.

A third ancient manor within this parish is HUNTMINSTER, a name which seems to imply a church there in the Saxon times. William le Prouz held the village of Huntminster in the manor of Hemington 20 Edw. I.<sup>g</sup> The service by which it was held was half a knight's fee. This place is now depopulated.

The benefice of Hemington was valued in 1292 at nineteen marks; and a pension of four marks was paid out of it to Henry de Esse, canon of Sarum.<sup>h</sup> It is a rectory in the deanery of Frome. The lord of the manor is patron, and the Rev. Giles Hill is the present incumbent.

The church, which, according to Browne Willis, is dedicated to St. Mary, consists of a nave, chancel, south aisle, and tower at the west end.

On the north wall of the chancel is a mural monument of stone,—"In memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Hill, daughter of Mr. Stephen Hill, rector of this parish; and Mary his wife, who died at Bath, March 1, and was buried at the entrance into this chancel March 3, 1725, aged 18 years. In this chancel lies the body of the Rev. Mr. Gyles Hill, A. M. rector of this parish; he died Oct. 29, 1755, aged 63."

Near the communion-table:—"Here lies the body of the Rev. Stephen Hill, M. A. late rector of this parish, who died July 24, 1737, aged 84 years. Also Mary the wife of Stephen Hill died January 9, 1752, aged 87."

On a brass plate on a tomb in the south aisle is the following inscription:—"Here lyeth the body of John Halkfield, which departed to God full mekely in the yeare of our Lord God 1528, on whose soul God have mercy. Amen."

In this aisle are several flat stones to the Vigor family.

On a black stone in the middle passage:—"Here lies the body of Adolphus Darknel, of Folkland, gent. who died June 14, 1710. And of Sarah his wife, who died Aug. 31, 1711." Arms, a lion passant regardant between three helmets.

On an adjoining stone:—"Here lyeth the body of Francis Hales, gent. who departed this life June 1, 1764, in the 84th year of his age." Arms, Chevron *fable* between three lions rampant. Crest, a lion rampant.

Against one of the pillars in the south aisle is a mural monument of stone, inscribed, "Siste viator. Heare by lyeth the bodys of Edward Batchelor, gent. and Katharine his wife, expecting the joyful day of resurrection. Katharine departed the 20th of July, Edward departed the 11th of Dec. 1667. Cum legis esto memor. He gave 50l. to the poore of five neighbouring parishes, 10l. to each parish; and the rest he distributed to his kindred by consanguinity and affinity."

<sup>f</sup> Efc.

<sup>g</sup> Ibid.

<sup>h</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

On the south wall of the south aisle is a mural monument of stone, inscribed,——  
 “Near this place lies interred the body of Samuel Vigor, gent. who died Sept. 14, 1711, in the 71st year of his age; who gave for the relief of two poor labouring men, each not having above four in family, two cottages, and 5l. 4s. per annum for ever. And 20s. per annum to be distributed to the poor of this parish in bread on the 25th of Dec. yearly for ever. Also 50s. per annum for the schooling of two poor children of this parish, and two poor children of the parish of Wedmore, for ever.”

On a frame against the north wall:——“The honourable Col. Warwick Bampffield, of Hardington, (who dyed Dec. 6, 1694) by his last will gave 20l. a year for ever, out of the old rents and profits of Hemington, to the poor of this parish.”

In the church-yard are many grave-stones, but nothing of consequence appears on them.

## H O L C O M B E

**I**S a parish west from Babington, situated in a country intersected with deep vallies; whence its name. The soil is mostly red, very rich, and abounds with coal; the lands are chiefly pasture. The manor was the property of Roger de Curcelle soon after the Conquest, and had this description:

“Alward holds of Roger, HOLECUMBE. He himself held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one virgate of land. The arable is two carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and two servants, and one villane, and five cottagers, with half a plough. There is a mill of sixpence rent, and seventy-five acres of pasture, and fifteen acres of wood. It was and is worth ten shillings.”<sup>a</sup>

This manor was held of the honour of Gloucester, under whom its chief lords after the Conquest were the family of Palton. William de Palton held at his death, 28 Henry VI. the manor of Holcomb, of the heir of John Wyke, together with the several manors of Paulton, Timsborough, Corcomb, Wick, Bourbache, Camerton, Withicomb, Elworthy, Brompton-Ralph; and lands in Paulton, Timsborough, Cameley, Chewton-Mendip, Camerton, Clutton, Dunkerton, Midsummer-Norton, Kilmersdon, Durcot, Holcombe, Whitchurch, and Hinton-Blewet. These lands descended to Joan the wife of John Kelly, and Agnes the wife of Nicholas St. Loe, his cousins and heirs.<sup>b</sup> This manor became afterwards the property of the Horners.

The abbey of Keynsham had property in the village, and presented to the benefice, which is a rectory in the deanery of Frome, and now in the gift of Thomas Horner, of Mells-Park, esq. The Rev. Dr. Bishop is the present incumbent.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> Etc.



The church, which is dedicated to St. Andrew, is romantically situated in a circular hollow, on the brow of a very deep valley to the west. It is a very old building, having a fine Saxon arch at the entrance of the porch on the south side, and other marks of ancient architecture.

In the year 1770 this parish paid to the poor 144l. 13s. 5d.; in 1778, 153l. 5s. 5d.

## R A D S T O C K

**I**S a village situated eight miles south from Bath, in the turnpike-road from that city to Wells, and upon its intersection with the old Roman Fosse-road, from which it is denominated; Rad, in the Saxon language, signifying a road, and Stoc, a village. This road for about a quarter of a mile is visible almost in its original state, being raised high above the side-dikes, about six feet broad, and having a convex surface. As this is not at present a publick road, it may possibly remain a monument of antiquity for many ages to come.

Although from its name the Saxons seem to have been acquainted with the place; yet no mention is made of it in the survey taken of their lands in the time of King William the Conqueror. It was given by King William II. to Robert Fitz-Hamon earl of Gloucester, and held of his successors Earls of Gloucester for several centuries.\* 11 Edw. I. it was found by an inquisition that the tithings of Radstock, Babington, Hardington, and Holcombe, which belonged of old to the hundred of Kilmerston, had in the time of Henry III. been withdrawn therefrom by Richard earl of Gloucester, by reason of their being of the fee of the said Earl.<sup>b</sup> About this time Henry de Mountfort was mesne lord of this manor, and was succeeded therein by Reginald de Mountfort his son and heir, who held the manor, with the advowson of the church, by the service of one knight's fee, 7 Edw. II.<sup>c</sup> He was also lord of Wellow. 13 Edw. III. Philip de Wellesleigh held the manor of Radstock of Hugh Dispenser, reversionary after his death to William Banister and Elizabeth his wife.<sup>d</sup> 19 Ric. II. William Banister held the manor, with the advowson of the church, of Lord le Dispenser, by knight's service and suit of court, as of the honour of Gloucester. He died that same year, leaving one daughter, Joan, to inherit his estates. Which Joan was married to Robert de Alfoxton, of Alfoxton in the parish of Strington, whom she survived, and had to her second husband Sir John Hill, knt. by whom she had issue Robert Hill, who was of Spaxton in this county. He died 4 Henry VI. leaving John his son and heir; to whom succeeded a second John, whose sole daughter and heiress was married to Sir William Say, knt. Having no issue, the manor reverted to Elizabeth sister of the last-mentioned John Hill, the wife of John Cheyney, esq; whose son John left four daughters his coheiresses, one of whom being married to Edward Waldegrave,

\* Cart. Antiq.

<sup>b</sup> Ex bundel. Efc.

<sup>c</sup> Lib. Feod.

<sup>d</sup> Efc.

esq; transferred this manor, with other estates, to that family, in which it still continues, being now the possession of John Earl Waldegrave, Viscount Chewton.

The benefice of Radstock is rectorial, in the deanery of Frome, and in the patronage of Lord Waldegrave. The Rev. Mr. James is the present incumbent. The prior of Bath received from the parsonage a yearly pension of four marks.<sup>5</sup>

The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, is a small plain structure, and contains nothing remarkable.

A coal-work has of late years been opened in this parish, and is carried on with great success.

\* Taxat. Spiritual.

## STRATTON ON THE FOSSE.

**T**HIS place, lying southward from Radstock, obtained its original name from its situation on the same old street, the Fosse, (as its modern appellation more plainly expresses it) running in a strait line to the ancient town of Ivelchester. There are other places in various parts of England called by the same name, and for a similar reason.

King Edgar gave this manor, consisting of six hides, to the abbey of Glastonbury,<sup>2</sup> of which in the time of King Edward the Confessor it was held by Alwold, one of the Saxon thanes. But William the Conqueror, taking this among other lands belonging to that monastery into his own possession, bestowed it upon his favourite prelate and assistant the Bishop of Coutances; and we find it thus recorded in the general survey:

“ The same William holds of the Bishop, STRATONE. Alwold held it in the time  
“ of King Edward of the church of Glastonberie, nor could it be separated from it,  
“ and gelded for three hides. The arable is three carucates. In demesne are two  
“ carucates, and three servants, and five villanes, and six cottagers, with a plough and a  
“ half. There is a mill of five shillings rent, and twenty acres of meadow. Pasture  
“ four furlongs in length and breadth. Wood three furlongs long, and two furlongs  
“ broad. It was worth fifty shillings, now four pounds.

“ To this manor is added one hide and a half in PICOTE, (now called *Pitcott*.)  
“ Wlmar held it in the time of King Edward, and could go where he would. The  
“ arable is one carucate. There are two villanes, and two cottagers, with one servant.  
“ There is a mill of forty pence rent, and seven acres of meadow, and two furlongs of  
“ pasture, and one furlong of wood. It was and is worth twenty shillings. William  
“ holds it of the Bishop.”<sup>b</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Johan. Glaston. Hist. de rebus Glastonien. i. 139.

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Domesday.



The manor of PITCOTT is thus further surveyed:

“ The same [Edmund] holds PICOTE. Iadulf held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides and a half. The arable is four carucates. In demesne are two carucates, and two servants, and three villanes, and eight cottagers, with two ploughs. There is a mill of fifty pence rent. There are eight acres of meadow, and twelve acres of pasture, and fifty acres of wood. It was and is now worth four pounds.”

The Gournays were the lords of Stratton, till it became affixed to the dutchy of Cornwall, whereto it now belongs, in the person of the Prince of Wales.

The living of Stratton is a rectory in the deanery of Frome, valued in 1292 at nine marks.<sup>d</sup> The Prince of Wales is patron; the Rev. Philip Dart the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Vigor, consisting of a nave, chancel and north aisle newly built by Mrs. Knatchbull, who also new pewed the church in 1782 with neat pannelled deal. The chancel was rebuilt (all but the east wall) at the expence of the Rev. Richard Hughes, rector.

<sup>c</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>d</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

## W R I T H L I N G T O N

**I**S a small village, containing about fourteen houses, and situated on the northeast slope of a hill eastward from Radstock. Its ancient name was *Writelinstone*, under which it is noticed in the Norman survey, as follows:

“ Bricthward holds WRITELINCTONE. Bricthwold held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for six hides. The arable is five carucates, and in all there are eight villanes and three cottagers. There are twelve acres of meadow, and twenty four acres of pasture, and twelve acres of coppice-wood. It was heretofore worth one hundred shillings; now four pounds.”

This manor is now the property of William Moore, of Charlton, esq.

The church is a prebend in the cathedral of Sarum; the present rector is the Rev. Mr. Trickey, of Salisbury. In 1292 it was valued at eight marks.<sup>b</sup>

The church, dedicated to St. Mary-Magdalen, is a small and humble pile, standing in a picturesque spot under the hill; in the bottom of the vale below it are rich meads watered by a stream rising at Stone-easton, and running through this parish and Radstock into the Avon near Bath. It is built of stone, and consists of the nave, one small

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

aile, chancel, and porch. Its length from east to west is 52 feet, width 22 feet, the roof coved and cieled, being 22 feet high. At the west end is a very small low tower containing two little bells.

On the south side of the chancel is an ancient mural monument of grey marble, with the following inscription:—"H. I. I. Maria vxor Thomæ Coxeter, A. M. hujus eccles. rect. filia Johan. et Mariæ Deacon de Burford in agro Oxon. gen<sup>si</sup> ob. 5<sup>to</sup> die Junij, A. D. 1727, ætat. suæ 60. Maria relicta J. Deacon, predict. ob. 5<sup>to</sup> die 9bris, A. D. 1710, ætat. suæ 84. Richardus, Sara, Benjamin, infantes & proles T. & M. Coxeter predict. Richardus, ob. Jan<sup>rii</sup> 17, A. D. 1697, 1<sup>mo</sup> mense ætat. suæ. Sara ob. 14<sup>o</sup> Maij A. D. 1705, 1<sup>mo</sup> mense ætat. suæ. Benjamin, ob. 1<sup>mo</sup> die Feb. A. D. 1710, ætat. suæ 2<sup>o</sup>. Omnesq; resurrectionem felicem expectant."

In the north aile is a mural monument of stone, with the following inscription:—"To the dear memory of Bridget, wife of Jō. Salmon, of Writhlington, gent. and daughter of William and Bridget Eyre, of the city of New-Sarum, who died Jan. 4, 1691, aged 26."

On a black tablet of marble beneath this monument is the following inscription:—"Neer this place resteth the body of Bridget Eyre, relicf of William Eyre, of the city of New-Sarum, clerk; her first husband was Thomas Flower, of Melksham in the county of Wilts, gent. and she was daughter of John Mitchell, of Calston in the said county of Wilts, gent. She died, in the assured hope of a joyful resurrection to everlasting life, the 10th of February, 1692, aged 68."

On two stones in the chancel floor:—"Mary Deacon, 1710. Richard Coxe, 1697. Mary Coxeter, 1727. Sarah Coxeter, 1705."

On a stone in the south aile:—"Mrs. Bridget Eyre, died the 10th day of Feb. 1692, aged 68. Mrs. Elizabeth Salmon, died Dec. 6, 1719, aged 63."





## The Liberty of Mells and Leigh.

**T**HIS district, consisting of two parishes, is contiguous to, and was formerly part of the hundred of Kilmerston, under the jurisdiction of whose lords it continued till the time of Henry III. when it was, at the instance of the monks of Glastonbury, released from all suit and service to the hundred court, by Ralph de Sully, then lord of the manor and the hundred of Kilmerston.<sup>a</sup>

Thomas Horner, esq; is the present lord of this Liberty.

<sup>a</sup> Regist. Abbat. Glaston. Joh. Glaston. Index Chartar. 400.

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### M E L L S.

**T**HIS is a large and populous parish, three miles west from Frome, and thirteen east from Wells. The situation of the village is very beautiful and picturesque, the ground being full of hill and vale pleasingly intermingled with wood. To the east of the church is a romantick narrow valley, called *Wadbury* or *Modbury Vale*, which extends in a winding direction to the extremity of the parish, and is afterwards continued through that of Elm and into Frome, where it finally ends, its length being nearly two miles:<sup>b</sup> it bears evident marks of having been formed by the violent effect of an earthquake, the projecting rocks on one side answering to the indentures on the other. It is about sixty yards in breadth at the bottom, where a river, at some seasons not inconsiderable, flows over a rocky channel, in which, from the inequality of the surface, many bold cascades are formed. The margin of the stream is thickly overhung with shrubs and oak trees. The sides of the vale are from sixty to one hundred and fifty feet high, nearly perpendicular, and clothed with fine hanging coppices, through which vast rocks project with amazing grandeur. On the top of the rocks are the vestiges of some very ancient encampments, the works on each side the valley opposite to each other. On *Newborough*, or *Newbury* hill, is *Wadbury* camp, of a squarish form, surrounded by a single ditch: this, though small, must have been a station for horse, as there are evident remains of a road, made at immense labour, for the cavalry to go down the rocks to the river. On the summit of a hill, not far distant, to the northeast, was another small encampment, to this day called "*the Bulwarks*;" it had three

<sup>b</sup> It is worthy of remark, that in this sequestered vale there are two iron forges, which at this period are carrying on a trade, little inferior, in point of extension, to those in the northern part of this kingdom. All the western counties are supplied at these manufactories with every iron implement of husbandry, and their connexions extend to the European and American continents.

ditches,

ditches, one within the other, and was well calculated for a post of observation, commanding a view of the country to a great extent. At a small distance southward from the church is an eminence called *Tent-Hill*, where many human bones have been discovered in digging for lapis calaminaris. And on the summit of the down, called *Kings-down*, there is a square area, surrounded by a fosse nearly obliterated, with an entrance on the north, in which, tradition says, was formerly fought a bloody battle, great numbers slain, and in particular two kings; from which circumstance the down derived its name. The bodies of the slain were said to have been interred in a large adjacent tumulus, which being levelled some years since, in making the turnpike-road from Frome to Radstock, disclosed a vast quantity of human bones corroborative of the tradition.

There are several coal-works in this parish, in some of which is a stratum of clay equal to the Stourbridge in the manufacture of crucibles: lead, manganese, pipe-clay, and fuller's-earth, are also found here. In a hill called *Vobster-Tor*, from the hamlet of *VOBSTER*, is a vein of ash-coloured marble, streaked with red.

In many old records in the parish chest, and in divers deeds in the possession of the lord of the manor, this parish is stiled *Parochia Mellis*, the parish of honey; and not unaptly so; as bees, if the expression may be allowed, seem almost indigenous here; there being many places among the rocks and in the trunks of old oak trees where they have continued time immemorial.—It occurs very early in the monastick records.

About A. D. 942, King Edmund I. gave to Earl Athelstan the whole village, consisting of twenty hides, and soon after the said Earl bestowed the same on the Abbey of Glastonbury,\* in which the first donor was interred.

“The church itself holds *MVLLE*. In the time of King Edward it gelded for twenty hides. The arable is twenty carucates. Thereof in demesne are ten hides, and there are two carucates, and two servants, and eight villanes, and seven bordars, and five cottagers, with three ploughs. There is a mill of five shillings rent, and fifteen acres of meadow, and twelve acres of pasture. Wood one mile long, and two furlongs broad. It is worth to the abbot ten pounds.

“Of the land of this manor Godeve holds of the abbot one hide. Her husband held it in the time of King Edward, and it could not be separated from the church. It is worth seventy-eight pence.

“The Bishop of Coutances holds of the King five hides and a half belonging to this manor. Two thanes held it in the time of King Edward, but could not be separated from the church. Azeline holds it of the Bishop.”<sup>b</sup>

Soon after the Conquest one Harding, the son of Eadnoth, a lawyer and a powerful man in his days, by some false and unjust pretence, distrained this manor and that of Leigh from the monastery, and took them into his own hands; this occasioned a long litigation: but at length Abbot Herlewine wrested them from him, and restored them to his house, which (after some other contention with Roger de la Mare in the time of Abbot de Blois) retained possession of the same till the reign of Henry VIII. The revenues of the abbot in this place were in 1293 valued at 16l. 11s.<sup>d</sup>

\* Adam de Domesday. Hist. i. 73.

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>c</sup> Joh. Glaston. Hist. i. 164.

<sup>d</sup> Taxat. Temp.



Geffrey Fromont procured it a charter of free warren;<sup>a</sup> Walter Monington, a market and a fair;<sup>b</sup> John de Taunton built a sumptuous grange upon the manor;<sup>c</sup> and John de Selwood, whose father had large possessions in the parish, intended to have rebuilt the town in the form of a cross,<sup>d</sup> but finished only one street, which is in part still standing.

In the time of Edward I. a writ of *quo warranto* was brought against the abbot of Glastonbury, to shew cause for his retaining two shillings accruing from the sheriff's attendance and aids at *Modbury* in the manor of Mells. The abbot not being able to defend his right, the two shillings were adjudged to the King; but afterwards remitted.<sup>e</sup>

The manor coming into the hands of the crown, by the dissolution of the monastery of Glastonbury,<sup>f</sup> was purchased, (as we are informed by Leland)<sup>g</sup> by Mr. Horner, whose seat was then at Cloford, and in whose family it has continued ever since.— To Thomas Horner, esq; who was living 31 Henry VIII. succeeded Sir John Horner, knt. of Cloford, who was sheriff of this county 6 and 15 Eliz. and died 24 Sept. 29 Eliz. leaving Thomas his son and heir, who was then forty years of age. This Thomas was knight of the shire 27 Eliz. and sheriff of the county 4 Jac. I. and died about the 10th of that reign. John Horner his son and heir was a knight, and was sheriff of this county 14 Jac. I. also knight of the shire 2 Car. I. and again in 1654. He married Anne daughter of Sir Geo. Speke, of White-Lackington in this county, knt. by whom he had Sir George Horner, knt. who also 12 Car. II. was knight of the shire for this county, and was succeeded by George his eldest son and heir, who married Elizabeth daughter of Robert Fortescue, of Filleigh in the county of Devon, and by her had issue Thomas and John. Thomas the eldest married Susannah the daughter of Thomas Stangeways, of Melbury in the county of Dorset, and assumed thence the name of Strangeways Horner. He was knight of the shire for this county in 1713, and again in 1727; he died Nov. 20, 1741, and left issue a sole daughter and heiress, Elizabeth, wife to Stephen Fox, esq; afterwards created Earl of Ilchester. John the second son of George Horner, and grandson of Sir George, married Anne daughter of Edward Phelips, of Preston-Plucknet, esq; by Anne his wife, daughter and coheirefs of Sir Edward Phelips, of Montacute in this county, knt. and had issue one son, Thomas

<sup>a</sup> Cart. 4 Ed. III. n. 87.

<sup>f</sup> Regist. Abbat. Glaston.

<sup>b</sup> Adam de Domerham. Hist. ii. 573.

<sup>c</sup> Lel. Itin. vii. 106.

<sup>d</sup> Joh. Glaston. Hist. i. 250.

<sup>e</sup> The following survey was then taken of this manor, viz.

“ THE MANNOUR OF MELLES.

“ *Rentes of Assise and Customary Tenants.* The rentes of assise and customary tenants there, apperteynyng unto the saide mannour, with the workes and customes, whiche they are bounde to doe by tenure of there landes, are of the yerely value of 37l. 18s. 4½d.

“ *Rentes and Fermes.* The scyte of the saide mannour, with the demaynes apperteynyng unto the same, are letton by indenture for the somme of 6l. 6s. 8d.

“ *Perquisites of Courtes and Fynes.* The profittes of the courtes, fynes, and other casualties, are answered to the King's Highness this yere at 27l. 3s. 3d.

“ *Able Menne to serve the King.* Also there are of able menne, belongyng unto the same, able to doe the King service, to the nombre of 30.

“ *Bondemen.* Also there be within the sayde lordeship certayne bondemen, to the nombre of 1.”

<sup>g</sup> Itin. vii. 106.

Langtoft's Chron. ii. 354.

Horner, who is the present possessor of this manor. The family arms are, *Sable*, three talbots passant *argent*, 2 and 1.

The feat, called Mells-Park, a park of high antiquity, is delightfully situated; the plantations are of large extent, the gardens fine, and the whole environs laid out with great taste.

The living of Mells is rectorial, and in the deanery of Frome; the lord of the manor is the patron; and the Rev. Dr. Bishop the present incumbent. It was anciently appropriated to Glastonbury-abbey, and valued in 1292 at thirty-five marks.\*

The church is a handsome structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, and two side ailes. At the west end is a lofty tower, containing a clock and six bells.<sup>o</sup> In the north aile is a large vault belonging to the Horner family; to whose memory are several monuments.

In the south aile,—"Here lyeth interred Sir John Horner, knt. who dyed the 25th of Oct. 1659. Also Dame Ann his wife, the daughter of Sir George Speke, of Whitlackington in this county, knight of the Bath, who died March 22, 1665."

"This is set up in remembrance of Elizabeth, who dyed April, 22, 1680; Ann, who dyed June 2, 1682; Sufanna, who dyed April 28, 1684:—the daughters of George Horner, esq; by Elizabeth his wife, the daughter of the Honourable Colonel Robert Fortescue, of Filleigh in the county of Devon, esq."

In the north aile is a stately mural monument of white and grey marble,—"Inscribed by Thomas Horner to the pious memory of his father George Horner, (who died the 11th of March 1707) and Elizabeth his wife, (who died the 5th of Sept. 1693) daughter of Robert Fortescue, esq; of Filleigh in the county of Devon; and of one brother and four sisters near interred.

"And 20 Nov. 1741 died the abovewritten Thomas Strangeways Horner, esq; and was buried in the vault underneath, with two of his sons, which he had by his wife Sufanna Strangeways Horner, of Melbury-Sampford in the county of Dorset. The Right Hon. the Lady Ilchester is their only surviving child." Arms, Horner; impaling *Azure*, a bend engrailed *argent*, cotised *or*: Fortescue.

On a monument of white marble against the north wall, is this inscription:—"To the memory of Anne the eldest daughter of Sir George Horner, this is erected by Baldwin Malet, esq; to whom she was married Jan. 3, 1677, and by whom she had issue five sons, and one daughter, whereof four sons were only living at the time of her death, which was on the 1st day of August 1689." Arms, Malet impaled with Horner.

In the chancel is a handsome monument of white and Sienna marble, with an elegant and just inscription to the memory of the late worthy rector, Thomas Paget, S. T. B. who died A. D. 1783, aged 78.

\* Taxat. Spiritual.

"The chirch (dedicated to St. Andrew) is faire and buildid yn tyme of mynde *ex lapide quadrato*, by the hole parochie. One *Garlande*, a draper of *London*, gave frely to the building of the vestiariie, a fine and curiose pece of worke. One . . . . a gentilman dwelling there yn the parochie made a fair chapelle in the north side of the chirch. There is a praty maner-place of stone harde at the west ende of the chirche. This be likelihod was partely buildid by Abbate Selwolde of Glasleinbyri. Syns it servid the fermer of the lordeship."

Lel. Itin. vii. 106.

LEIGH.



## L E I G H.

THIS village stands at a small distance, nearly southwest from Mells. The old name thereof was *Lantocai*, as appears by the ancient records of Glastonbury, which inform us, that in the year of grace 681, Hedda bishop of Winchester, with the consent of the kings Kentwin and Baldred, gave Lantocai, now called *Legh*, consisting of six hides, to the monks of Glaston; which donation was confirmed by King Cedwalla, who, although a pagan, subscribed to the deed the sign of the cross with his own hand.<sup>a</sup>

This Hedda, or Headda, succeeded Eleutherius in the bishoprick of Winchester, and was esteemed a pious and just person, one who worthily exercised his episcopal charge, in teaching and directing his flock, being enabled thereto more by the love of piety engrafted in his heart, than by the advantages of study or of learning.<sup>b</sup> This prelate, to whom many miracles were attributed, died July 7, A. D. 704, or, according to others, A. D. 705.<sup>c</sup>

The village of Leigh seems to have somewhat suffered by the several depredations of hostility which intervened betwixt this period and the Norman invasion; for in the account given thereof in the record of William the Conqueror, it is set down at no more than four hides, whereas six were its valuation at the time of its being bestowed on the abbey. The account given of it is as follows:

“ The church itself holds LEGA. In the time of King Edward it gelded for four hides. The arable is ten carucates. Thereof are in demesne two hides. One of them was thane-land, but could not be separated from the church. In demesne are four carucates, with one servant, and seven villanes, and ten cottagers, with five ploughs. There are thirty-five acres of meadow, and thirty acres of pasture, and six acres of wood. It is worth eight pounds.”<sup>d</sup>

Very little further mention is made of this manor till the time of Henry VIII. when, after a possession of upwards of eight hundred years, the abbey parted with it to the crown. After which it passed with Mells; to which, with regard to ecclesiastical matters, it is a chapel.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Giles, is a lofty Gothick structure, consisting of a nave, two side aisles, chancel, and porch, all covered with lead. At the west end stands a stately tower, embattled, and containing six bells.

This parish paid to the poor in 1770, 186l. 6s. 3d.; in 1778, 228l. 2s. 10d.

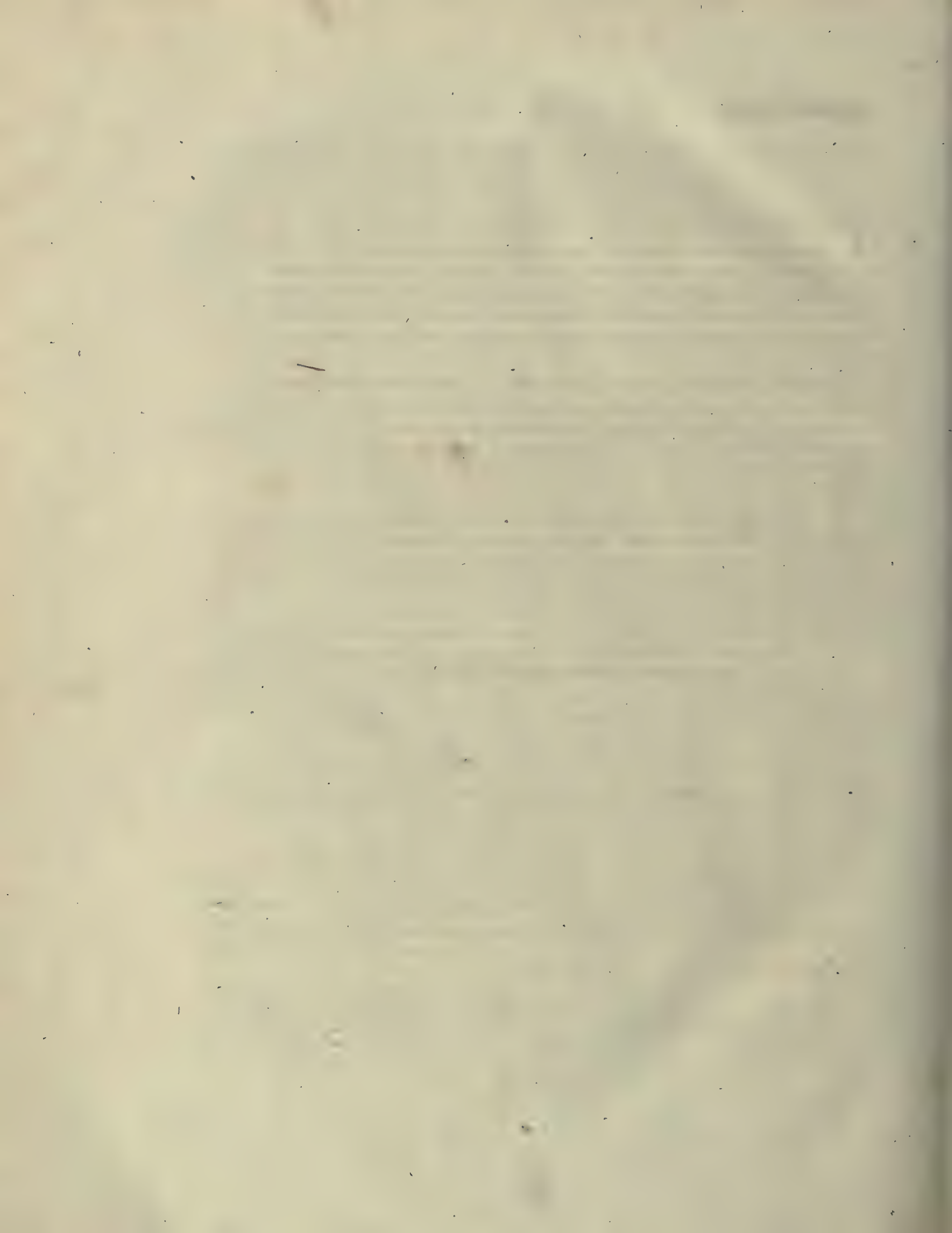
<sup>a</sup> Adami de Domerham Hist. i. 50, 51. Joh. Glaston. Hist. i. 91.

<sup>b</sup> Bed. Hist. Ecclesiast. lib. 5. c. 19.

<sup>c</sup> Godwin de Præfulibus, 205.

<sup>d</sup> Lib. Domesday.







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THE HUNDRED  
OF  
KINGSBURY-EAST.

**T**HIS Hundred is scattered into several parcels; that which contains the parish of its name, and also that of East-Lambrook, lies between the hundreds of Bulston and Martock. A small portion, containing the parish of Huish-Episcopi, lies near Langport; and two other parts, divided by a strip of South-Petherton hundred, and containing the rest of the parishes, are situated in the extreme part of the county southward, on the borders of Devon. This whole hundred formerly belonged to the Bishops of Bath and Wells.

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K I N G S B U R Y

**I**S a parish situated on the river Parret, running hence to Langport northward, and dividing this part of the hundred from the hundred of Pitney. Its ancient name was *Chingesberie*, and its ancient possessors were the Bishops of Wells:

“ The same Bishop [i. e. Giso] holds CHINGESBERIE. He also held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for twenty hides. The arable is twenty-four carucates. Thereof are in demesne six hides, and there are two carucates, and four servants, and sixteen villanes, and four cottagers, with eleven ploughs. There are two mills rendering thirty shillings, and one hundred acres of meadow. Pasture one mile long, and three furlongs broad.

“ Of the same land of this manor three knights and a clerk hold eight hides. It is worth on the part of the bishop twelve pounds. On the part of the knights, eight pounds.”

† Lib. Domesday.

41 Henry III. the Bishop had a charter of free-warren in this manor;<sup>b</sup> and in 1293 the temporalities thereof were valued at forty-five pounds.<sup>c</sup> From its thus early belonging to the see of Wells it obtained the additional title of *Episcopi*, being in old records stiled *Kingsbury-Episcopi*, to distinguish it from other lordships of the name.

The Earl of Berks was some time lord of this town, and it now belongs to the Honourable James Everard Arundel.

The rectory of Kingsbury was anciently appropriated to the chancellorship of Wells, erected A. D. 1135, and in this dignity it still continues. 2 Oct. 1447, the Bishop confirmed the ordination of the vicarage of Kingsbury, made by Bishop Walter Haselshaw in 1302, when Henry Hufee was chancellor of Wells, and rector of this parish, by which the vicar was allotted a house and curtilage with eleven acres of arable land in the demesne fields of the rector, and one acre of meadow lying near the vicarage garden. The vicar and his successors to have all kinds of oblations and mortuaries contingent to the parish church, and oblations contingent to the chapel of the blessed Mary Magdalen in the court-house of the rector; as also the tithe of lambs, calves, chicken, geese, pigs, pigeons, eggs, wool, flax, honey, cheese, milk, butter, apples, and pears, accruing as well from the parishioners as the court-house of the bishop in the village of Kingsbury; and the third part of the tithe of hay coming from the parishioners, and all the tithe of hay coming from the bishop's demesnes in the manor of Kingsbury. The vicar and his successors to pay the rector a yearly rent of two shillings due from the vicarage-house, and in consideration of a certain space of ground granted by the rector for the enlarging the vicarage court; to maintain at their own expence a chaplain and a clerk, to officiate for them in the said church; to give holy water to any proper clerk, who shall frequent the schools in work days; to officiate themselves on sabbath days and festivals in the the said parish church; and moreover to provide and support proper and usual lights in the chancel of the said church; but to be charged with no other burden.<sup>d</sup> The Rev. Mr. Perkins is the present incumbent.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Martin, is a large and stately Gothick structure, built of the Ham stone, consisting of a nave, chancel, two ailes, belfry, porch, and vestry-room. At the west end is a very magnificent tower, one hundred and twenty feet high, of excellent masonry, and adorned at the top with twenty Gothick pinnacles of curious workmanship. Against this tower are eleven statues of kings, &c. placed in Gothick niches, some sitting in armour, cross-legged, but many of them much mutilated. Their coats are carved in stone on the south front, but time has defaced the bearings.

The nave is divided from the chancel by a curious, ancient, open-work screen of five arches, with a large projecting cornice curiously carved; over which there was formerly a rood-loft. Above the screen the arch is filled up with a painting of the royal arms, with St. Peter and St. Paul.

The side ailes are divided from the nave by eight pointed arches, supported by octangular columns.

<sup>b</sup> Cart. 41 Hen. III. m. 5.

Taxat. Temporal.

<sup>c</sup> Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.



In the chancel, and at the east end of the north aisle, the windows are ornamented with beautiful painted glass. The subjects are, kings, bishops, saints, and armorial shields of several bishops of the diocese, and of the chancellors of Wells, with a scroll "Johes Storthwayt cancell. Well. hanc fenestram fieri fecit."

There is an inscription to Judith, the wife of John Gould, of Southay in this parish, gent. who died June 17, 1758, aged 57. And in the church-yard is a tomb to James Gould, who gave fifty pounds to five poor widows of this parish, and the like sum to as many poor widows of Ilminster. A worthy example! He died Feb. 25, 1750.

There are several hamlets in this parish, as TIMBRIDGE, BURROW, SOUTHAY, and THORNEY, which last was one of the three islands belonging at the Conquest to the abbey of Muchelney.\*

Here is a large moor, or common, called WEST-MOOR.

\* See Domesday, under Muchelney, in Pitney Hundred.

## E A S T - L A M B R O O K.

TO the south of Kingbury lies East-Lambrook, situated on the little stream of Lambrook, which denominates the parish, and divides it from South-Petherton. It is called *East-Lambrook*, as being eastward from another village or hamlet of the name. The landholders here have an unlimited right of common in Westmoor.

At the time of the Conquest this place was parcel of the manor of Kingsbury-Episcopi, and therefore does not occur in the Norman record; nor indeed are there any memorials of curiosity in any subsequent documents to distinguish this place in history. The manor is partly vested in the dean and chapter of Wells; to whom it was affixed by Queen Elizabeth; and partly in the Hon. Mr. Arundel.

The living is a rectory and peculiar in the deanery of Crewkerne, and in the patronage of the dean and chapter of Wells. The Rev. Joseph Good is the present incumbent. The living has been augmented with Queen Anne's bounty, 200l.; and the private donations of the Rev. Mr. Bowyer of Martock, 130l.; and the trustees of Mr. Pyncombe's will, 70l.

The church is a small structure, containing nothing remarkable.



HUISH-

## HUISH-EPISCOPI, or BISHOP'S-HUISH.

**T**HIS is a large parish, adjoining to Langport on the northeast side of that town, and washed by the river Ivel, which, coming from Ivelchester, here joins the Parret, near a wooden bridge supported by four stone piers. It contains the hamlets of COMBE, PISBURY, and part of WEARNE, the rest belonging to the tithing and parish of Pitney. Most of the lands are pasture and meadow, in which vast numbers of cattle are reared and fatted for the London market.

The manor of Huish, which is not distinguishable in the Domesday record, was anciently, and still is, parcel of the revenues of the bishoprick of this diocese, although it has several times, by some means or other, been alienated from it. The lands of the bishop in this place were rated in 1293 at twenty pounds,<sup>a</sup> and a charter of free-warren was granted for the same by King Henry III.<sup>b</sup>

The little village of *Pisbury*, was formerly sometimes written *Epse* and *Episbury*, and was thus surveyed at the Conquest:

“Ralph [de Limefi] himself holds EPSE. Ulward held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for half a hide. The arable is one carucate. There is one villane, and sixteen acres of meadow. It is worth three shillings.”

Of the manor of WEARNE notice will be taken in the hundred of Pitney, to which it properly belongs.

The church of Huish, valued in 1292 at 100 marks,<sup>d</sup> is a prebend in the cathedral of Wells, and is annexed to the archdeaconry of Wells in perpetuum. The vicarage is united with Langport, and the present incumbent is the Rev. Mr. Michell.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is a good edifice, consisting of a nave, chancel, and two side ailes. At the west end is a very fine lofty and stately tower, the top of which is beautifully ornamented with eight Gothick pinnacles, each surmounted with a spear head, the iron being more than two feet in length above the stone-work.

At the east end of the chancel is an old black stone mural monument, inscribed:—“Heere under was Elizabeth the daughter of Thomas and Frances Court, buried y<sup>e</sup> 5th of May, Anno Dom. 1672. Heere lyeth the body of Thomas Court, who departed this life the 4th of Feb. 1677, who dedicated this memorial, ætatis suæ 37.” Arms, Paly of six, *or* and *azure*, on a chief of the first an eagle displayed *sable*.

In the north aile:—“George Effexe, esquyre, and Margery his wife, were both buried in this place, May 23, 1588.” Arms, Quarterly *or* and *gules*, a saltire fretty, counterchanged.

Near the pulpit, on the north wall, stands a handsome monument of grey and white marble, with this inscription:—“In memory of Thomas Keat, A. M. rector of Ashington and King's-Weston in the county of Somersset. A gentleman of a humane deportment, great candour, and strict integrity; whose regard for the ministerial func-

<sup>a</sup> Taxat. Temporal.

<sup>b</sup> Cart. 41 Hen. III. m. 5.

<sup>c</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>d</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.



tion was very conspicuous in a faithful discharge of it. To the advancement of learning a steady friend, and in every relation of life truly exemplary. He died Aug. 5, 1750, aged 60 years."

## C H A R D.

**T**HIS ancient town was in the Saxon and Norman days denominated *Cerdre*, which seems to arise from Cerdic, a famous Saxon general, who was active in these parts in encountering the native Britons.

It is situated in the southern extremity of the county, on high ground, twelve miles south from Taunton, eight west from Crewkerne, and twelve east from Honiton in Devonshire. It consists principally of two streets, intersecting each other, of good width, pitched with flints, and containing many good houses. There is also a long row of houses, called *Crow-Lane*, from a fine spring of water which rises near the church, and runs into the river Ax, turning several grist and fulling-mills in its course. At the west end of the principal street rises a very fine spring, from which leaden pipes are conveyed to four conduits, which supply the inhabitants with excellent water, and the surplus forms small streams of about two feet wide, on each side of the principal streets between the carriage road and foot-way. It is observed by the annotator on Camden's *Britannia*, that the stream from these springs may be easily turned north or south, either into the Severn or South-Sea. This is a real fact, and hence it appears that this is the highest land between the vales which communicate with either sea. Both the Channels may be seen from a spot called *Boundslane*, and from Snowden-hill a vast prospect discloses the Welch lands beyond the Severn.

At the angle where the two streets meet stands an ancient Gothick building, formerly a chapel, but now used as a town-hall; another publick edifice stands near the middle of the principal street, which served formerly for an assize-hall; and now occasionally for a market-house. The market is held on Mondays,\* and great

\* Copy of a letter published respecting the market at Chard:—"Whereas since the determination of Mr. Baron Price, on the late trial concerning the borough of Chard in the county of Somerset, the market there is begun to be held on Mondays as formerly: And whereas certain persons, falsely pretending themselves to be Mayor and Burgeses of the said borough, here lately set up a Tuesday's market by virtue (as they pretend) of a charter from King Charles the Second. And to all such persons as repair to the Monday's market; This is to give Notice, That by advice of Council such grant of a Tuesday's market is in itself void, and the said charter long since determined: And that the market of the said borough will, as legally it may be given by the said pretended Mayor and Burgeses to the contrary. And we the members of the old corporation of portreeve and burgeses, do hereby, as formerly, engage all cost and damage that may accrue unto them by reason of their repairing unto the said Monday's market. Dated the 2d day of January 1704.

"Natb. Pitts,      John Pitts,      John Chapman,      Richard Ivery,      George Selwood,  
Richard Legge,      John Newcomen,      John Smith,      John Slater,      George Strong."

Dr. Stukely mentions a market kept formerly here on Sundays. *Itin. Curios.* i. 156.

quantities

quantities of corn and cattle are brought thereto. It is also the largest market for potatoes in England; thirty waggon-loads being brought on a market-day frequently during the season, and seldom less than twenty. There is a range of shambles, one hundred and twenty feet in length, and twenty feet in breadth, covered with a roof of tile, and supported by brick pillars. Three fairs are held here, May 3d, August 5th, and November 2d.

This town was formerly a borough, and sent members to parliament from 28 Edw. I. to 2 Edw. III. viz.

- 28 Edw. I. John Benedict, Thomas Havill.
- 6 Edw. II. Peter Clerk, William Sopere.
- 7 ——— John Langefarr, Stephen de Legh.
- 8 ——— John Benedict, Thomas Havill.
- 15 ——— William Sopere, John Benedict.
- 16 ——— William Sopere, John Benedict.
- 19 ——— Henry Corton, Henry Fabri.
- 1 Edw. III. John le Smyth, Richard le Dykere.
- 2 ——— John le Smyth, Richard le Dykere.

This privilege, however, has for many years been lost, by reason of a dispute and a neglect of the charter, originating from some publick and popular dispute. The town is now governed by a portreve (who is annually chosen at a court-leet, out of the burgeses) and two bailiffs. The portreve, besides his other offices, has the government of an hospital endowed with two estates by a Mr. Harvey, for the use and benefit of old and infirm parishioners, who have generally been chosen by the said portreve and burgeses. Here is also a work-house.

It has already been said, that the whole of this hundred belonged formerly to the bishops of this diocese; and this manor of Chard was consequently part of their possessions:

“The same Bishop holds CERDRE. He also held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for eight hides. The arable is twenty carucates. Thereof in demesne are two hides, and there are two carucates, and eleven servants, and twenty villanes, with fourteen ploughs. There is a mill yielding thirty-pence, and twenty acres of meadow. Wood two miles long, and four furlongs broad, and as much of pasture. Of the same land a thane holds two hides, which cannot be separated from the church. The whole is worth sixteen pounds.”<sup>b</sup>

41 Henry III. the bishop procured a charter of free-warren in all his demesne lands within this parish, which were rated in 1293 at 32l. 3s. 4d.<sup>d</sup> The manor is now leased out to Earl Poulett.

The parish of Chard, or as it has usually been called *Chardland*, contains five tithings, viz.

1. OLD-CHARD, in which stands the church.

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>c</sup> Cart. 41 Hen. III. m. 5.

<sup>d</sup> Taxat. Temporal.



- |                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2. CRIM-CHARD, north of the town. | 4. FORTON, situated southward. |
| 3. SOUTH-CHARD.                   | 5. TATWORTH, southward also.   |

In which tithings are the following hamlets :

1. LANGHAM, in Crim-Chard tithing, where is a manor and farm belonging to Sir John Smith, of Sidling in the county of Dorset, bart. in whose family it has been for many generations. He bears for his arms, *Sable*, a fess cotised between three martlets *or*: Crest, a greyhound sejant, collared of the last.

2. CHORLEY, in the same tithing.

3. TURNHAM, in the tithing of Old-Chard.

4. CHELSON, in the tithing of South-Chard. And,

5. PERRY-STREET, in the tithing of South-Chard.

The greater part of the lands in this parish are pasture and meadow, some of the latter very rich. The arable is mostly stone-rush and marle, which last is used for manure. Here are several quarries of stone; some freestone, and others a coarse kind of agate or flint, which takes a fine polish, and contains spar and shells of various kinds.

The great tithes of this parish are leased out under the Dean of Wells, the rectory being annexed to that dignity. The benefice is vicarial, in the patronage of the bishop of the diocese. The Rev. Mr. Alford is the present incumbent.

The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and stands in the deanery of Crewkerne, being a large handsome edifice, one hundred and twenty feet in length, and forty-six in breadth, and consisting of a nave, chancel, north and south aisles, a north and south transept, and tower at the west end, containing a clock and five bells.

At the northeast corner of the south transept is an antique and stately mural monument of various kinds of marble and porphyry. The middle division contains two arched recesses, in which are the effigies of the persons to whose memory it was erected, kneeling at an altar face to face, their hands in a suppliant posture, resting on the altar. Behind the man are six sons, behind the woman five daughters, all kneeling in the same attitude. They are all in black robes and large ruffs; the woman's robe comes over her head like a modern calash. On each side these recesses is a round column with a Corinthian capital gilt. These pillars support the cornice, at the corners of which stand obelisks; between them is a divided semicircular pediment, on the sides of which recline two angels with golden hair, one holding a dolphin, the other a dove and palm branch. In the interval are the arms, *Gules*, two bends wavy *cr.* Underneath is this inscription:—"Hereby lieth interred (expecting their Saviour) the bodies of William Brewer, of Chard, phisitian, and Deanes his wife, who, living forty years in happy wedlock, in full age departed this life; shee dying 8<sup>o</sup> Nov. 1614, and hee 24<sup>o</sup> July 1618, having issue only six sons and five daughters, all men and women growne, and all comforts to them.

## "LECTORI.

"Mourn not for us, whom death translates to glory,  
 But for thyselfe—whose life's a dying storye.  
 Gazers muse not, now you these stones behold,  
 Viewing these sable lines in-set with gold;  
 It's not to keepe alive the memorie  
 Of those whose ashes heere interred lye,  
 Whose godlye lives yet live, and shall for aye  
 When these hard stones are moulder'd quite away.  
 Their children's zeale well weighing parents' care,  
 And Christian love to all while breathing ayre,  
 With grateful harts most thankfully erect,  
 Vnto their ashes dear, this monument."

At the south corner of the south transept is a mural monument of black marble, on which is a white tablet with this inscription:—"In memory of John Lane, gent. who served in his Majesty's own regiment of horse upwards of fourteen years, under the command of three colonels, John Lord Viscount Irwin, Richard Lord Viscount Cobham, William Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery. To the troop of the two last noblemen, quarter-master. Afterwards had three commissions in the first regiment of Tower-hamlets, commanded by Charles Earl Cornwallis. He retreated to the place of his nativity, and died in the borough of Chard, Jan. 24, 1767, aged 79."

In the north side aisle is a handsome mural monument of white and grey marble, inscribed,—"Sacred to the memory of John Eveleigh, of Crim-Chard, who died April 26, 1767, aged 32 years. An exemplary member of the church of England; being of strict probity and integrity, humane to his dependants, beloved by his equals, and an example of conjugal affection. His disconsolate widow, greatly regretting her loss, has caused this monument to be erected as a testimony of the love she bore him." Arms, Per pale *or* and *sable*, a chevron between three griffins passant, counterchanged.

In this church were formerly several gilds, fraternities, and chantries, viz.

1. The fraternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. William Atkyns and others, wardens of this fraternity, were recorded for having purchased burgages in the town of Chard without the King's licence, 19 Ric. II.\*

2. The chantry of the Holy Trinity. Robert Strange gave a rent and burgage in Chard to the use of this chantry, 19 Henry VI.†

3. William Pears, the last incumbent of a gild here, was in 1553 allowed a pension of 5l.‡

In the town of Chard, in the rebellion of the last century, the Royalists, under the command of Colonel Penruddock, who here proclaimed the King in person, suffered a severe defeat, and several of their leaders, being taken to Exeter, were there imprisoned and put to death.

\* Inq. ad quod damn.

† Pat. 19 Hen. VI. p. 3. m. 23.

‡ Willis's Hist. of Abbies, ii. 201.



John Sanford, son of Richard Sanford of this place, was entered a commoner of Baliol-college in Oxford, in 1581, and afterwards was made one of the chaplains at Magdalen-College in that university, where he contracted an intimacy with Sir John Digby, and accompanied him as his chaplain in his embassy to Spain. He at length became prebendary of Canterbury, and rector of Ivychurch in Kent. He published several books on a variety of subjects, being a person of great learning, a solid divine, well skilled in several languages, and a tolerable Latin poet.<sup>b</sup>

Simon Every, created a baronet in 1641, was a native of Chard, and a great sufferer for King Charles I. He married the eldest daughter and coheir of Sir Henry Leigh, of Egginton in the county of Derby, knt. whereby he became possessed of that estate, and where his posterity were thenceforward seated.

<sup>b</sup> Athen. Oxon. I. 540.

## COMBE-ST.-NICHOLAS.

**N**ORTHWEST from Chard lies Combe-St.-Nicholas, a very large parish, divided into four tithings, viz. HAM, CLAYHANGER, WADFORD, and BETHAM. There is also the hamlet of *Sticklepath*, and the ancient, though now depopulated village of *Waston*, in which tradition relates was formerly a nunnery.

The manor of Combe belonged before the Conquest to one Azor, or Arser, a person employed in the court of King Edward the Confessor, of whom it was procured by Giso bishop of Wells, together with the manors of Worminster and Lytton.<sup>a</sup> We find the following notice of it in the Norman record:

“ The same Bishop holds CUMBE. Azor held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for twenty hides. The arable is sixteen carucates. Of that in demesne are eight hides, and there are three carucates, and twelve servants, and fifteen villanes, and thirteen cottagers, with twelve ploughs. There are twelve acres of meadow, and half a mile of pasture in length and breadth, and one mile of wood in length and breadth. It was worth ten pounds, now eighteen pounds.”<sup>b</sup>

A. D. 1234, Joceline bishop of Bath, having finished the ordination of the provostship in the cathedral of Wells, endowed that office with this manor and rectory, as also with the manor and rectory of Winsham, and the rectory of Chard and Wellington, charged with the payment of the salaries of *the fifteen Combe prebendaries*, to each 6l. 13s. 4d.<sup>c</sup> After this ordination, the bishop decreed in what manner, and with what

<sup>a</sup> Godwin de Præfulibus, 366.

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>c</sup> The business of the provost was to take care and keep an account of the goods and chattels which were possessed in common by the canons.

stock, the said manor should be transmitted to succession. And then he shall leave to his successor in the said provostship a hundred and seven acres sowed with wheat at *Combe*, and a hundred and forty-nine acres sowed with oats, and seventy-eight acres and a half of fallow. And of stock in the same place, forty oxen, or five shillings in lieu of each ox, if so be that so many oxen should not be found there. Also two hundred sheep; the price of each sheep twelve-pence.—At *Winsham* he shall leave the demesnes in a proper state of cultivation without any fixed number of acres or measure; and of stock sixteen oxen, the price of each ox three shillings and six-pence, and one plough-horse, value three shillings; six sows and a boar, the price of all four shillings; ewes and rams in all one hundred and thirty-two, the price of each ewe or ram five-pence, and fifty-three lambs, value of each two-pence halfpenny. At *Chard* he shall leave the demesnes tillaged, without number or measure, in the same manner as at *Winsham*, and the fallow without any stock. At *Wellington* he shall leave nothing in culture.<sup>d</sup> The value of the vicarage of *Combe* in this instrument is five marks.

King Edward III. in the seventeenth year of his reign, granted a charter of free-warren in this manor,<sup>e</sup> which continued in the provostship till its abolition, and was then annexed to the deanery, whereto it now belongs. By a survey taken the 8th day of October in the 16th year of Queen Elizabeth, the manor of *Combe-St.-Nicholas*, with the rectory, parcel of the revenues of the Dean of Wells, was rated at 6 l. 4s. 2½d.<sup>f</sup>

The living is a vicarage<sup>g</sup> and peculiar in the deanery of *Crewkerne*, and in the patronage of the Dean of Wells. The Rev. Christopher Tatchell is the present incumbent.

The church is a large handsome building, in length one hundred and fourteen feet, and in breadth fifty feet; consisting of a nave, chancel, north and south aisle, with a square embattled tower, containing five bells at the west end.

On the north wall of the chancel is a very elegant mural monument of white and Sienna marble, inscribed,—“To the memory of Henry Bonner, esq; of *Waston* in this parish, who died in Dec. 1680, and in the 65th year of his age: Of Henry Bonner, esq; his son, who died the 2d of August 1717, and 73d year of his age: And of Mary

<sup>d</sup> Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

<sup>e</sup> Cart. 17 Ed. III. n. 1.

<sup>f</sup> *Ecclon's Thesaurus*, p. 56.

<sup>g</sup> “*Omnibus ad quos &c.* Jocelinus Dei gratia Bathon. Episcopus, salut. Cum venerabilis frater Stephanus Waterford Episcopus ecclesiam de Comba ad præposituram de Comba pertinentem in honore sancti Nicolai in vigilia beati Laurentij 1239 de mandato nostro in præsentia nostra dedicaverit, ipsam ecclesiam de Comba in hunc modum dotamus, viz. quod contulimus ipsi præposituræ nomine dictæ ecclesiæ advocationem vicariæ ecclesiæ de Cherde cum jurisdictione archidiaconali ejusdem parochiæ. Et cum ipsa vicaria de Cherde esset onerata in 40s. prædicto præposito annuatim solvendis, de ipsius præpositi consensu—Vicariam ipsam ab obligatione ipsa soluturam esse in perpetuum ex certa causa pronunciamus. Et ne mutulari videatur præpositura per aliquod factum nostrum & prædicti præpositi consensum, prædictæ præposituræ in recompensationem prædictor. 40s. dedimus molendinum de Fordyngton cum manso & terra. Item molendinum de Hornesbowe cum manso & terra—& molendinum de South-Cherde cum manso & tenemento—habenda & tenenda de nobis & successoribus nostris reddendo inde [de hoc ultimo nominato molendino] singulis annis 20s. Dat. apud Comb. per manum magistri Walt. de Maydeneston in vigil. sancti Laurentij pontificatus nostri 34. Confirmatur hoc per capitulum Well. & Tho. prior. & conv. Bath.”—*Ex Registro Joh. de Drokenesford, Ep. B. & W.*



the wife of the said Henry Bonner, esq; and daughter of Robert Strode, esq; of Slape in Dorsetshire, who died 2d of June 1729, and 76th year of her age: As also of other the ancestors and descendants of the Bonner family, who for many generations have been buried in this place; was this monument, with a truly filial and affectionate esteem, erected by Elisabeth daughter of the above Henry and Mary Bonner, Anno 1757."

Near the above is another very neat mural monument of grey, white, and Sienna marble, on the tablet of which is this inscription:—" On the north side of this church lies the body of the Rev. Mr. Joel Smith. The celestial part is fled to heaven; living, he was beloved; now dead, lamented by all. He was remarkable for humanity, good sense, true friendship, and for enduring the tortures of a lingering distemper with Christian patience. If the pious wishes of a large circle of friends could have availed any thing, he had still continued among us; but heaven determined otherwise. John Collins erected this monument of his grief and affection to the memory of his dear departed friend; and as a testimony of his gratitude to him for many obligations. He died at Hatch-Court, 13 Jan. 1758, in the 36th year of his age.

" Reader, if thou hast a tear,  
Shed the precious tribute here."

On a flat stone in the chancel floor:—" Between this stone and the north wall lies the body of Thomas Meacham, (son of James Meacham, gent. late of Betham in this parish, and Dorothea his wife) who died July 18, 1749, aged 14 years. And underneath, among the remains of several of her ancestors, lieth the body of the said Dorothea (daughter of John Pike, gent. and late wife of John Pitts, esq; of Chard) who died Jan. 13, 1764, aged 55 years."

On another stone:

" Here lyeth the body of Elizabeth the wife of Henry Sydenham, esq. who was buried June 7, 1631. Here lyeth also the body of the said Henry Sydenham, esq. who was buried Jan. 30, 1671."

The christenings in this parish are annually on an average 17; and the burials 18.



## W I N S H A M

**I**S a considerable parish on the borders of Devon, from which it is divided by the river Ax, situated four miles east from Chard, and five west from Crewkerne, being separated into two tithings, viz.

1. WINSHAM tithing, containing about one hundred houses, which form three streets round the church; it includes also two hamlets, *Purtington* north, and *Ameram* southwest.

2. STREET and LEIGH tithing, consisting of twenty-one houses. In this tithing is a gentleman's seat, the residence of James-Benedictus Marwood, esq.

A considerable manufacture of narrow cloth is carried on in this parish, and employs most of the poor.

The manor of Winsham had long before the Conquest been vested in the church of Wells, but by some sinister practice or other was alienated from it, and fell into the hands of one Elfi, a Saxon, whom Bishop Giso compelled to restore it to its proper owners.\* It was thus surveyed at the Conquest:

"Ofmund holds of the Bishop, WINESHAM. Elfi held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for ten hides. The arable is sixteen carucates. Thereof in demesne are four hides, and there are three carucates, and twelve servants, and fifty villanes, with nine ploughs. There are two mills of twenty shillings rent, and six acres of meadow. Wood half a mile long, and a furlong and a half broad. It was worth six pounds, now ten pounds."

After which the manor was disposed of as the preceding one of Combe-St.-Nicholas, being first vested in the provostship, and afterwards in the deanery of Wells, in which last dignity it still continues.

A charter of free-warren was granted for this manor by King Edw. III.<sup>c</sup>

The abbot of Ford in Devonshire had a large estate in Winsham, it being valued in 1293 at 22l. 11s. 8d.<sup>d</sup>

The manors of *Leigh* and *Street* were given by William the Conqueror to William de Moion:

"Robert holds of William, LEGE. Sirewald held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for three hides. The arable is four carucates. In demesne is one carucate, with one servant, and five villanes, and two cottagers, and eight acres of meadow. Wood two furlongs long, and one furlong broad. It was formerly worth thirty shillings, now twenty shillings."

\* Godwin de Præfulibus, 366.

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>c</sup> Cart. 17 Ed. III. n. 1.

<sup>d</sup> Taxat. Temporal.

<sup>e</sup> Lib. Domesday.



“ Roger holds of William, STRATE. Huscarl and Almar held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for one hide and a half. The arable is two carucates. There are three villanes, and one cottager, with one plough, and one acre and a half of meadow. Pasture five furlongs long, and two furlongs broad. It was and is worth fifteen shillings.”

The last-mentioned place derived its name from the Roman *Stratum*, or Street, called the *Fosse-Road*, which runs through it in its way to Devon, the ancient *Danmonii* of that people, who carried their arms from one end of the kingdom to the other, and left their reliques in almost every part of the Itinera by which they passed. In the year 1684, an urn containing many Roman coins was found betwixt this village and Winsham. The manors of Street and Leigh now belong to Henry Host Henley, of Norfolk, esq.

The manor of *Purtington* was also the property of the Mohun family, and was held of them for many years by the Cheynes, by the service of one knight's fee;<sup>5</sup> but it does not occur in the Norman record. A spring rises in this hamlet which forms a brook, and turns three grist-mills. It lies north from Winsham.

The lands of this parish are mostly pasture; the country woody, and the roads narrow and flinty.

The church is a Gothick edifice, in length ninety-four feet, in width twenty-two feet, consisting of a chancel, nave, porch, and belfry covered with tiles. Between the nave and chancel stands an embattled tower, with a clock and five bells.

The living is a vicarage in the deanery of Crewkerne, and the patronage thereof belongs to Lord Francis Seymour, as Dean of Wells. The Rev. Mr. Roysé is the present incumbent.

This church contains two mural monuments on the east wall of the chancel, viz.  
1. An antique monument of white and black marble, on the tablet of which is this inscription:—“ Sacrum memoriæ Roberti Henley, (fil. natu max. Henrici, nepotis Roberti Henley de Leigh in agro Somersetenfi armigeri; et hujus comitatus unus præpositorum) qui epidemica grassante febre hinc demigravit. Elizabetha conjux ejus fidelissima, prior e solis natabus Edmundi Lamberti de Boyton in campo Wiltonienfis armigeri et Dulcibellæ filiæ Richardi Swaine de Blandford in comit. Dorset, armigeri, certa resurrectionis faustæ spe freta, hoc posuit mnemosynon, A. D. 1639.” Arms, *Azure*, a lion rampant *argent* within a bordure of the second, charged with eight torteaux.

2. A neat monument of white and other veined marble, inscribed,——“ In memory of Mary Roysé, wife of Nathaniel Roysé, vicar of this parish; who, to the graces that adorn a Christian, added the engaging conversation of a friend, the affectionate duties of a daughter, and the truth and tenderness of the best of wives. These merits, which entitled her to the esteem of all that knew her, constituted her happiness here, and will perpetuate it to all eternity. She died August 10, 1747, aged 37. Also near the

<sup>5</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>5</sup> Efc. 20 Ed. II. et alibi.

same place lies interred Tryphena Royse, wife of William Royse, vicar of this parish, who died Aug. 2, 1741, aged 65;—a sincere Christian.”

On a stone in the chancel floor:—“ Here lieth the body of Thomas the son of Thomas Hillard, of Hayne in the parish of Otterford, in the county of Sumſett, gent. who died Nov. 27, A. D. 1680, anno ætatis octavo.”

On a tomb in the church-yard:—“ Here lies the body of Adam Abraham, of Purtington, gent. M. A. of Wadham-college, Oxon, who departed this life Sept. 12, 1709. Atkins Abraham, of Purtington, gent. lieth here; who departed June 21, 1764, aged 75.”

One of the Henley family left a benefaction of 3l. 10s. per annum, for the schooling of poor children of this parish, which is now advanced to five pounds.





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THE HUNDRED  
OF  
KINGSBURY-WEST.

**T**HIS Hundred, lying westward from the former, and from that circumstance thus denominated, is divided into two parts; the first of which is situated contiguous to Devonshire, between the hundreds of Taunton-Dean on the east, and Milverton on the west, and contains the parishes of Wellington and Buckland; the other lies on the northwest side of Milverton, adjoining to the hundred of Williton and Freemanors; and contains the parishes of Wiveliscombe, Fitzhead, Bishop's-Lydiard, and Ash-Priors.

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W E L L I N G T O N

**I**S a large and ancient market-town, on the borders of the county of Devon, being in the high-road from Bath and Bristol to Exeter. It consists of four streets, the principal one of which is called High-street, and is full half a mile in length, being for the most part wide and spacious, and contains many good brick houses. The market is on Thursdays, and well served with most sorts of provision: there are also two fairs, one of which is held on the feast of the nativity of St. John the Baptist; and the other on the tenth day of November. Both the market and fairs were originally procured of the crown by the bishops of Wells, who for many centuries possessed this manor. They also caused the town to be erected into a borough, and it anciently enjoyed many privileges from the grants of different kings.

The earliest historical account we find of it, commences with the reign of King Alfred, who gave the manors of Wellington, Buckland, and Lydiard, to Affer, the tutor of his children; which Affer was afterwards advanced to the see of Sherborne,

and died in that dignity A. D. 883.<sup>a</sup> After his decease, and the institution of the bishoprick of Wells by Plegmund archbishop of Canterbury, the manors abovementioned were conferred by the King on Aldhelm, the first bishop of this diocese, for the support and maintenance of his episcopal honour. To him succeeded Wifelinus, Elfeth, Wlfhelm, Brithelm monk of Glastonbury, Kineward, Sigar, Aldwyn, Burwold, Leoning, Ethelwyn, Brithwyn, Merewith, Dudoca, and Gifo, successive bishops of this diocese, and owners of this manor, before the Norman Conquest. It was then by order of King William surveyed by commissioners, whose report was as follows:

“ The same Bishop [i. e. Gifo] holds WALINTONE. He also held it in the time  
 “ of King Edward, and gelded for fourteen hides. The arable is thirty carucates.  
 “ Thereof in demefne are three hides, and there are four carucates, and thirty-one ser-  
 “ vants, and fifty-three villanes, and sixty-one cottagers, with twenty-five ploughs.  
 “ There are two mills of fifteen shillings rent, and one hundred and five acres of  
 “ meadow. Pasture one mile long, and half a mile broad. Wood three furlongs  
 “ long, and as much broad.

“ Of the land of this manor John holds of the Bishop two hides of the villanes’ land.  
 “ The whole is worth twenty-five pounds.

“ To this manor is added one hide, which Alvera held in the time of King Edward  
 “ for a manor. The arable is three carucates, and there are with it eight villanes,  
 “ and four cottagers, and one servant. There are five acres of meadow. Wood three  
 “ furlongs long, and as much broad. It is worth thirty shillings.<sup>b</sup>

Bishop William Button obtained of King Henry III. a charter of free-warren for his manor of Wellington;<sup>c</sup> and in the time of Edw. I. the lands belonging to the bishoprick in Wellington and Buckland were valued at sixty pounds.<sup>d</sup> This manor continued in the possession of the bishoprick till 2 Edw. VI. when Bishop Barlow granted it, together with the borough of Wellington, with lands there and divers other appertenances, to Edward duke of Somerset, and his heirs, to be held of the King as of his manor of Muchelny in free socage by fealty only.<sup>e</sup> In the MS. schedule of the said Duke, the manor of Wellington is valued at 37l. os. 11d. and the borough at 6l. 7s. 11d.<sup>f</sup> Upon the Duke’s attainder it came to the crown, where it continued till the 22d of James I. when it was granted in fee to Sir James Fullerton and James Maxwell, who in the same year granted it to feoffees in trust for Sir Francis Popham, son of Sir John Popham, lord chief justice of England, whose heirs enjoyed it for several descents. The manor of Wellington is now the property of Herbert Sawyer, esq; and that of the borough belongs to Thomas Harrison, esq. Courts leet and baron are held for both.

The benefice of Wellington is a vicarage in the deanery of Taunton, and in the patronage of Procter Thomas, esq. The Rev. William Jesse is the present incumbent. In 1292 it was rated at twenty marks.<sup>g</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Godwin de Præfulibus, 332. This account does not altogether agree with King Ina’s charter, nor with Camden’s assertion that Edward the elder (who was the son of King Alfred) gave Wellington, which was the land of six tenants, and Lediard, which had twelve tenants, to the Bishop of Sherborne. See Britannia, i. 57.

<sup>b</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>c</sup> Cart. 41 Hen. III. m. 5.

<sup>d</sup> Taxat. Temporal.

<sup>e</sup> Licence to alienate.

<sup>f</sup> MS. Valor.

<sup>g</sup> Taxat. Temporal.



The church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and is a stately Gothick edifice, one hundred and ten feet in length, and fifty in breadth, consisting of a nave, chancel, north and south aisles, two small chapels, a vestry-room, and porch, all covered with lead, except the chancel, which is tiled. At the west end is a handsome embattled tower, decorated with twelve Gothick pinnacles, and a turret on the south side. This tower is one hundred feet high to the battlements, and contains a clock and eight bells.

In the chapel on the south side of the church is a magnificent tomb, surrounded with a pallisado of wood and iron, on the table of which lie the effigies of Sir John Popham, and that of his lady. He is dressed in his judges robes, chain, and small square black cap; and placed with his head toward the west. On the lower basement, at the head and feet, are four other smaller figures of two men and two women, kneeling face to face. On the north side of the same basement are five boys and eight girls, dressed in black, kneeling in a row. And on the south side are nine women kneeling in the same manner. Over Sir John and his lady is a superb arched canopy, ornamented with the family arms, roses, paintings, and obelisks; the whole supported by eight round columns of black marble, five feet high, with Corinthian capitals green and gilt. On the west side of this canopy is the following inscription:

“ Sir John Popham, knight, Lord Chief Justice of England; and of the honourable privie counsel to Queen Elizabeth, and after to King James; died the 10th of June 1607, aged 76, and is here interred.”

This Sir John Popham was a native of Huntworth in this county, where his ancestors resided for many generations. He was educated principally at Baliol college in Oxford, and from thence removed to the Middle Temple, where he became a barrister, summer or autumn reader in 1568, serjeant at law soon after, solicitor-general in 1579, attorney-general two years after, and likewise treasurer of the Middle-Temple. In 1592 he was made lord chief justice of the King's-Bench, (an office he executed with remarkable severity, but impartial justice) and that same year received the honour of knighthood from Queen Elizabeth, being one of her privy council. In this town of Wellington he built a large and stately house wherein he resided several years; and during that time greatly enhanced his fortune by the purchase of several valuable estates in this county and that of Devon. In the time of the great civil war, this house was by stratagem taken possession of by one Bovet of Taunton, who converted it into a garrison for the use of the parliament army, and defended it for a considerable time against Sir Richard Grenville, who came to its rescue; in which contest it was so ruined, that it never after was re-edified. Sir John was a great patron and benefactor to Wellington, and in pursuance of his will, bearing date 21 Sept. 1604, an hospital was erected at the west end of the town for the maintenance of twelve poor and impotent or aged people, whereof six to be men, and six women; and for the education of two poor men's children. The president of this hospital has a stipend of one shilling and sixpence per week, and the other five men, one shilling each. The matron of the women has also one shilling and sixpence per week, and the other five women one shilling each; and eight-pence to each of the two children; and such clothes yearly

as by the will are directed. An estate of land is vested in the governors of the hospital for securing the endowment.

Against the east wall of the same chapel wherein the Lord Chief Justice lies interred, is a brass plate with an inscription to the memory of another of the same family:—  
 “Maria Alexandri Popham, de Huntworthy comitatu Somerset, generosi, uxor tertia Tho. Gatchell, de Clawfey, armigeri, filia natu maxima; casta, pudica, pia; suis blanda, omnibus benigna: beatæ resurrectionis spe, hac [haud] æterna domo (relictis Thoma & Alexandro filiis) adquiescit. Ob’ 18 die Octobris, A. D. 1717, ætat. 49.”  
 Arms, *Argent*, on a chief *gules*, two bucks’ heads cabossed *or*, Popham; impaling *ermine*, a garb *azure*, on a canton of the second an annulet *or*, Gatchell.

On a brass plate in the chancel floor:—“Here lyeth the bodies of three worthy gentlemen, successively possessors of the mansion-house of *Nowers* in this parish. First, William Gifford was here buried Nov. 5, 1581. Next, William his sonne was here interred Dec. 1, 1626. To him succeeded John his sonne, who dyed without issue, and was here buried June 4, 1675.”

In the south aisle is a plain mural monument of black and white marble, inscribed, —“In memory of Edward and Mary Jesse, son and daughter of the Rev. William Jesse, vicar of this parish. Edward died Sept. 24, 1765, aged 25; Mary died Dec. 27, 1766, aged 24 years; and are both buried in a cave in the church porch.”

On a black frame against the south wall:

“James Goddard, gent. by his deed dated 7th of October 1589, gave for the use of the poor of Wellington twenty shillings yearly, payable out of the estate called *Lancocke*, on our Lady’s-day, for the term of three thousand years.

“John Greenslade, gent. gave by his will, dated 29 Aug. 1620, for the use of the poor of Wellington, five shillings yearly, payable one month before St. Andrew’s-day, for the term of three hundred years.

“Thomas Rowe, of London, factor, gave by his will, dated 19th of July 1658, to the poor of Wellington, the use of fifty pounds for ever.

“George Hawkins, gent. gave by his will, dated 10 Jan. 1621, to the poor of Wellington five shillings yearly out of *Peaschay* for the term of one hundred years.

“John Ware, of Columstoke, Devon, gent. gave to the poor of Wellington the use of five pounds for ever. 1683.

“Edward Hickman, of Exon, gent. gave by his will fifty-two shillings yearly, payable on Christmas-day, to ten poor people of Wellington (who have no relief from the said parish) for the term of nineteen hundred and ninety-nine years, and his dwelling-house in Exon is bound for the same.”

On the north wall:

“John Parsons, merchant, late of Samford-Arundel, by his will bearing date Jan. 26, 1702, gave the use of ten pounds for ever to ten ancient poor people of this parish who do not receive relief.

“John



" John Perry, of *Perry*, gave by his will the use of five pounds for ever to five poor persons of this parish who have no relief.

" Thomas Marsh, sen. of this town, tallow-chandler, by his will dated the 21st of April 1703, gave the use of five pounds for ever to five ancient people, at the churchwarden's discretion."

John Salkeld, stiled by King James I. (who converted him to protestantism) the *learned Salkeld*, was sometime vicar here, and published two treatises, one of Angels, 1613; the other of Paradise, 1617. He died 16 $\frac{3}{8}$ .<sup>a</sup>

There was a service in the church of Wellington, whereof John Spycer was the last incumbent, and was allowed in 1553 a pension of 3l. 7s. 5d.<sup>1</sup>

By an accurate survey taken 1784, the number of houses in the town and the several hamlets of the parish of Wellington, was found to be as follows:

In the TOWN	—	—	—	—	—	462
At ROCKWELL-GREEN, commonly called <i>Raw-Green</i>	—	—	—	—	—	93
PAYTON, lying west of the town	—	—	—	—	—	14
HOLYWELL-LAKE, commonly called <i>Holway-Lake</i> , westward also	—	—	—	—	—	26
PLEAMOR'S-CROSS, commonly called <i>Plymouth's-Cross</i> , and	—	—	—	—	} —	33
WRANGWAY, south of the town	—	—	—	—		
WESTFORD, situated westward	—	—	—	—	—	24
STANDLE, and OLDWAY, south	—	—	—	—	—	23
FORD, south	—	—	—	—	—	17
Farm-houses and other scattered dwellings	—	—	—	—	—	48
Total						740

<sup>a</sup> Athen. Oxon. ii. 242.

<sup>1</sup> Hist. of Abbies, ii. 203.

## W E S T - B U C K L A N D

**S**TANDS two miles eastward from Wellington, and seven southwestward from Taunton, on the north side of the ridge of Blackdown-hills. In this parish are three hamlets:

1. HAM, a mile northwest from the church, containing twelve houses.
2. STERT, or *Silver-street*, half a mile northeast, six houses.
3. CHILSON, a mile west, six houses.

The rest of the houses lie scattered about the church, and towards Blackdown. The whole number being about eighty; some of which are farms; but mostly cottages, one composed

composed of reddish mud walls, covered with thatch. The lands are in general rich, pretty equally divided between pasture and tillage, and worth on an average twenty-five shillings an acre. In the hamlet of *Chilson* are about one hundred acres of common land, on which the inhabitants in general turn cattle, although the right is confined to the copyhold tenants. In that part of the parish which lies on Blackdown, rise many springs, the waters of which unite in a little rivulet which turns a grist-mill, called *Rugging-Mill*, and falls into the river Tone. Another stream runs by the common, and has over it a stone bridge of two arches. The roads in this parish are very narrow, deep, and stony; the banks on each side high, and the hedges meet in an arch above head.

The manor of West-Buckland was heretofore bestowed as Wellington, and has been for many centuries the property of the bishops of this diocese.

West-Buckland is a chapel to Wellington. The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and is a considerable edifice of Saxon and Gothick architecture, consisting of a nave, chancel, north and south aisles, with a well-built tower at the west end, eighty feet high, and containing five bells.

In the floor of the chancel there is, among a few others, this inscription:—"Sub hoc tumulo jacet corpus Malachæ Thurston, Medicinæ Doctoris: pauperibus fuit munificus, omnibus gratus, infirmis salus. Obijt socius Sidneij Cantabrigienfis, tertio die Junii, Anno Domini 1701, ætat. suæ 73."

Richard Blackmore gave twenty pounds to the poor of this parish, the interest thereof to be distributed to such as have no relief, at Christmas for ever.

The christenings in this parish are annually on an average 9; the burials 7.

## WIVELISCOMBE.

TO this place, which was called by the Saxons *Wifelycombe*, various etymologies have been given: some have imagined that it derived its name from the number either of *weevils* (or grubs, *Wefel* being the Saxon term for that insect) or of weasels, with which the combe or valley might formerly have abounded: others, laughably enough, have conjectured, that the name *Wiveliscombe*, or (as they call it) *Wifeless-combe*, originally arose from the circumstance of the place being in former times inhabited chiefly by priests, who, during the celibacy of the clergy, lived here in common, and officiated in the neighbouring parishes. Another conjecture may yet be hazarded, that the name is compounded of the Saxon words *Wefel*, which implies a close covering, and *Lombe*, the usual name in that language for a valley; whereby the word *Wiveliscombe* will be made to signify, *the close*, or *inclosed valley*, which indeed is really the case, the



the spot being on every side, except a small opening towards Taunton, shut in by lofty hills, covered with rich and very beautiful woods.

It is a large market-town, eleven miles west from Taunton, and seven northwest from Wellington, being situated in the second division of the hundred we are describing, and severed from the former by part of the hundred of Milverton. It consists of seven irregular streets and lanes, one of which, leading from the church to the market-place, where four streets meet, is very steep. Here were formerly two markets, the one on Tuesdays, the other on Saturdays; but the latter only is retained. There is a market-house for the corn, and a long row range of old shambles. Three fairs are held annually for sheep, cattle, and pedlary ware, viz. May 2d, Trinity-Monday, and the 25th of September.

The town is governed by a bailiff and a portreve, annually chosen at a court held in May. The portreve is always elected out of a part of the town called the *Borough*; and at the court, ale-tasters, and examiners of weights and measures, are appointed.

A considerable woollen-manufacture has for more than two centuries been carried on in the town, and still flourishes. The goods mostly made are blanketings, knap-coatings, kersey, and other coarse cloths; strouds, ermine, and baize. Many of these are sent to London, Bristol, and Exeter, for home consumption, and for exportation to Spain and Guernsey.

Within this parish there are about five hundred acres of common land, near four hundred of which are on *Main-Down*, a hill about a mile westward from the town, on the top of which is a good race-ground nearly two miles in circumference, on a fine strong turf. From the plain on this hill there is an extensive view of the country, particularly to the east and southeast, over the vale of Taunton and the moors, to Mendip-hills, and Hum-hill near Yeovil. On the east side of this hill is a fine spring, which sends a stream to the town, where it is received into a reservoir in West-street, and thence is distributed by pipes to most of the houses. On another part of the hill is a pool of water, called *Meer-Pool*, which is never dry, although it has no visible spring.

The river Tone, rising in the adjoining parish of Clotworthy, bounds this parish on the west, dividing it from Huish-Champflower, and Chipstaple. Many other excellent springs rise in this parish, and turn four or five mills, three of which are in the hamlet of FORD.

The woods in this parish are eight in number, and in contents about seventy-two acres, chiefly crowning the summits, or clothing the slopes of the hills. The wood is mostly oak and beech.

The soil is various; but for the most part a red loam mixed with stone-rush. There is a vein of yellow clay or ochre, much used by the tanners and fellmongers in dressing their leather, and for that purpose it is carried to a considerable distance. There is also great plenty of blue lime-stone, and some of a whitish kind, called *Popple*. The lands are nearly one third arable, and bear remarkably fine crops. The fields are in general large, divided by good quick fences, well planted with trees.

In

In the year 1777, the number of houses in the town of Wiveliscombe was 359, and of inhabitants 1533. Besides which there are several hamlets, as,

1. CROFORD, or *Crowford*, one mile east, which contains twenty houses, mostly thatched cottages.
2. FORD, about a mile northeast, ten farms, and ten cottages.
3. LANGLEY, a mile north, eight farms, and six cottages.
4. WHEATFIELD, a mile and a half north, eleven farms, and four cottages.

The rest of the houses, about sixteen in number, are mostly farms, and stand singly about the parish. The whole number of houses is about 444, and of inhabitants nearly 1900. Freeholders residing in the parish about 30.

Wiveliscombe was a place of some note in the time of the Romans, although it is not distinguished in their annals as a station or military post. In the earlier part of their transactions in this island they had a large *castrum* or encampment on a hill about a mile eastward from the town, which still is called *the Castle*. Its summit contains about twelve acres; and although it is mostly covered with coppice-wood and bushes, the vestiges of fortifications, and the foundations of buildings, are still discernible on its surface. Part of the fosse, which is very deep, and is extended round the hill, has been destroyed by the working of a quarry. Near the centre of the area, several Roman coins, chiefly of Trajan, Antoninus Pius, Tacitus, and Gallienus, were discovered in the year 1711. At another time an urn, filled with money of the same people, was dug up in the neighbouring valley: The number of coins contained therein was one thousand six hundred, most of them the size of a halfpenny, and were all of copper; but there were not above half a dozen among them that were of different sorts. The legends on the obverse were, "Imp. Diocletianus Aug. Maximianus. Constantius nobil. Maximinus. T. C. Val. Severus nobil. Imp. Constantinus Aug." On the reverse of all was the figure of Mars, with this legend "Genio Populi Romani."

The Danes availed themselves of this castle during their inroads into these parts; and after they withdrew, the Saxons, beginning to recover their tranquility, transplanted themselves to the neighbouring vale, and gave the site of their new-built habitations the name of *Wiveliscombe*.

Henceforward the place became of consequence, constituted a large lordship, and was always held by the Saxon kings, till Edward the Confessor granted all his lands here to the church of Wells. The extent of those lands appears in the Norman survey:

"The same Bishop holds WIVELESCOME. He held it also in the time of King Edward, and gelded for fifteen hides. The arable is thirty-six carucates. Of that in demesne are three hides, and there are four carucates, and eight servants, and sixteen villanes, and three cottagers, with seven ploughs. There is a mill of fifty-pence rent, and thirty-four acres of meadow, and two hundred acres of pasture, and fourscore acres of wood.

"Of the land of this manor three knights hold of the Bishop nine hides, and have there sixteen ploughs. This land is of the demesne of the bishoprick, and cannot be  
"alienated



“ alienated from the bishop. It is worth to the bishop ten pounds, to the knights  
“ fifteen pounds.”<sup>a</sup>

Bishop Button, A. D. 1256, obtained of King Henry III. a charter of free-warren for himself and his successors, in this and other of his manors;<sup>b</sup> and John de Drokenesford either raised from the ground, or rebuilt, a stately palace adjoining to the cemetery, which his successor in the see, Ralph of Shrewsbury, greatly improved.<sup>c</sup> A. D. 1331, in the time of the last-mentioned bishop, Simon Mepham, D. D. archbishop of Canterbury, then visiting the diocese of Bath, kept his birth-day at this palace;<sup>d</sup> and it seems to have been a favourite seat of every prelate from John de Drokenesford who died here, to Thomas Godwin, who, out of necessity and not by choice, parted with this manor for the term of ninety-nine years, to purchase peace and quiet.<sup>e</sup> The other episcopal palaces in this county were at *Wells*, *Banwell*, *Chew-Magna*, *Evercreech*, *Twiverton*, and *Claverton*.<sup>f</sup> The palace of Wiveliscombe is now in ruins; and a work-house, erected in the year 1735, occupies part of the site of the ancient edifice.

The manor, with that of Fitzhead, is held under the present bishop by the Hon. John-Bulkeley Coventry-Bulkeley. There is also another manor, which is included in Queen Elizabeth's charter to the Dean and Chapter of Wells, under whom it has long been held by the Lords Stawel.

There is a third manor within this parish, called OAKHAMPTON, of which the Dean and Chapter of Wells are also lords paramount, and which is held under them by Sir William Yea, bart. This also is included in Queen Elizabeth's charter. By an inquisition taken 3 Edw. III. it was found that John de Drokenesford, bishop of Bath and Wells, died seized of one messuage and three virgates of land in the hamlet of Oakhampton, within the manor of Wiveliscombe, which tenements were held of the bishoprick of Bath and Wells, by the service of the fourth part of a knight's fee. And the said bishop was thereby certified to have obtained the whole hamlet aforesaid of Sir John de Clyvedon, knt. paying yearly to the said John, for the life of James Trivet, 40l. per annum. And the same John de Clyvedon obtained the said messuage and lands to himself and his heirs of the said James Trivet.<sup>g</sup>

The church of Wiveliscombe, valued in 1292 at forty marks,<sup>h</sup> is a prebend belonging to the cathedral of Wells. A vicarage was ordained 7 kal. Nov. 1262, consisting of the following portions, viz. in all the alterage obventions of the church of Wiveliscombe, and the chapel of Fitzhead, and in all small tithes of the whole parish, except the tithes of all sorts of sheaf growing in the curtilages; and in the tithes of hay at Fitzhead only; and in the tithes of mills and flax throughout the parish; as also in mortuaries, or first legacies of the whole parish, saving from the tenants of the said church. The vicar also shall have a house with curtilage at Wiveliscombe, usually

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> Cart. 41 Hen. III. m. 5.

<sup>c</sup> Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

<sup>d</sup> Anon. Hist. Edvardi tertii, ap. Walt. Hemingford Chron. 399.

<sup>e</sup> Sir John Harington's *Nugæ Antiquæ*, p. 132. Athen. Oxon. i. 710. Biog. Dict. &c. <sup>f</sup> Lel. Itin. iii. 125.

<sup>g</sup> Esc.

<sup>h</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

appropriated to the officiating minister, and another at Fitzhead, with curtilage, which the chaplain used to occupy.<sup>1</sup> The Rev. Mr. Dowring is the present incumbent of the vicarage.

There was a chantry in the church of Wiveliscombe, and the last incumbent of it, Thomas Inarpone, received in 1553 a pension of 4l.<sup>2</sup>

The church is dedicated to St. Andrew, according to Browne Willis; but to the Holy Trinity, according to other authority. It consists of a nave, north and south aisles, and at the west end a tower and spire, with a set of chimes, a clock, and six bells.

In the south aisle is an antique mural monument of various kinds of marble, much defaced by time. In front are three small round detached columns with Corinthian capitals gilt. The centre one divides the monument into two parts, in which are two arched recesses containing black tablets, with these inscriptions:

“ To posterity. Heere rest in asured hope of a joiefull resurrection, through Christ Jesus, the bodies of Humphrey Windham, of Golden-Hill in the parish of Wiveliscombe in the county of Somerset, esq; third sonne of Sir John Windham, of Orchard in the same county, knight, (long since deceased) and Margery his wife, eldest daughter and coheire of John Stevenfon, of Hodsdon in the countie of Hertford, esq; who lived together above forty-three years, having issue a sonne and one daughter; which sonne dying young, Elizabeth their sole daughter and heire married John Colles, of Barton in the county of Somersete, esq; by whom hee hath had issue, at erecting of this monument, six children, a sonne and five daughters; which sonne dyed an infant, and lyeth in this vault. The said Humphrey Windham departed this mortal life the 29th day of May 1622, aged 84 and upward. Margerie his wife died the 1st of Sept. 1620, aed 72. Valete, pares incomparabiles! Festinantes sequimur.

“ To the eternal memorie of Humphrey Windham, esq; and Margerie his wife:

“ Here lies a pair, who for their equal loves  
Let after ages terme the turtle doves:  
A hee and shee whose like this western soile  
Shall hardly match, nay scarce again ovr isle.  
That fame herself adores the memorie  
Of Humphrey Windham, and his Margerie,  
His matchless wife, whose heav'n-blest skill and cost  
Cur'd sundry (whom the surgeon held for lost)  
Of dangerous wounds, dim eyes, and fester'd sores,  
Sent maymed cripples crutchless from her doors.  
To fower score fower of yearés hee did aspire,  
A counsellor, a justice, and a squire;  
Hence was hee wise to judge, and just to doe,  
Religious, good, and nobly-minded too;  
The orphan's father, and the widow's friend,  
Learned, wise, sincere, and constant to the end.

<sup>1</sup> Excerpt. e Regist. Wellen.

<sup>2</sup> Willis's Hist. of Abbies, ii. 203.



Yet from this *nonesuch* couple did proceed  
But one sole daughter, fair, and heire indeed  
Both of their virtues and estates, who lives,  
And in her life their second being gives.  
Here only doth their earthly pawne remaine,  
Which at Christ's coming must be fetcht againe."

Under this monument are their effigies in stone lying on a tomb.

On a brass-plate in the chancel north wall:—" Here lyeth William Crowther, M. A. and vicar of Wiveliscombe, who dyed June 8, 1617." Arms, A bend dexter wavy.

On a stone in the chancel floor:—" Here lyeth the body of Richard Wood, late minister here, buried April 2, 1645."

On two black tables are the following benefactions:

" John Perry, of Gerbeston, gent. 1582, gave to the inhabitants of this parish two several sums of twenty pounds, to be lent to eight honest laborious men, two years gratis, towards keeping them on work, and from becoming chargeable.

" Henry Story, gent. 1648, gave unto David Story and others of this parish, a messuage containing two burgages, situate in Golden-hill, for one thousand years, upon trust that they should yearly pay all the rents and profits thereof unto the churchwardens and overseers of the poor, to be by them distributed amongst indigent persons for their better relief on the feast-day of St. Thomas in every year.

" John Hutchines, gent. anno 1589, gave to Robert Story, and John Yea, and their heires, one close of land containing three acres, lying at Croford-hill-head, upon trust that they should yearly for ever distribute the profits thereof among the poor of the parish, fourteen days before Easter.

" Samuel Bird, of London, gent. anno 1647, gave to the poor of this parish two hundred pounds for the purchasing some land for the use of the said poor, with which money certain lands lying at Poleshill in Milverton were purchased.

" William Bowerman, vicar of this parish, anno 1562, gave unto the churchwardens and other inhabitants of this parish twenty pounds, to be by them lent to four honest clothiers of this parish for two years gratis, that should employ the poor people in spinning, weaving, &c.

" Elizabeth Coles, widow of John Coles, esq; and daughter of Humphrey Windham, did, by the direction of the said Humphrey Windham, and John Coles, esqrs. erect an almshouse for the settlement of eight poor aged people; and did also order the charity of one shilling and six-pence a week to be for ever paid unto every and each of the said poor people; which money is, by a decree made in the high and honourable court of chancery, charged on the manor of Wiveliscombe.

" Thomas Holway, gent. gave unto several inhabitants of this parish the inheritance of those six burgages situate in Golden-Hill, (part whereof is a certain parcel of ground now called the Parish Close) in trust that they should yearly for ever, at the feast of

Easter, pay all the rents and profits thereof unto the churchwardens and overseers of the poor, to be by them yearly for ever applied towards repairing the church and maintaining the poor."

Here is an hospital founded by Sir John Coventry, for twelve poor people.

There is also a poor-house near the church, called the Church-house, in which live eight families. A private donation has also furnished seventeen small cottages for needy and distressed families.

## F I T Z H E A D

**A**DJOINS to Wiveliscombe on the northeast. It has been written Fivehead, and Fifhide, and is frequently mentioned in the ancient accounts of Wiveliscombe, in which manor it was included at the time of the Conquest.

The country about this little village is thickly wooded, and pleasantly intermixed with hills and vallies. The lands are mostly in tillage, and a considerable quantity of flax is raised here. There are no fossils, and very few other natural productions; divers sorts of scarce mosses clothe the banks of the inclosures, and the sides of the roads, which are narrow, and overhung with hedges.

The church is a curacy and peculiar in the deanery of Dunster. The Rev. John Farthing is the present incumbent. It is dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, is a small Gothick edifice, of one pace, with a tower at the west end, containing a clock and five bells.

On the north wall of the chancel is a neat mural monument of black and white marble, on which is inscribed,—"Under three tombs in the church-yard are interred the bodies of Simon Cannon, esq; and of Jane his wife. Of John Southby, esq; and of Mary his wife, (who was daughter and coheir to Simon Cannon;) also of Jane and Robert Southby, their son and daughter. And in the vault under the family seat in this chancel, lie interred the bodies of Cannon Southby, esq; (who died July 7, 1768) of Betty his wife, and of Jane their daughter." Arms, *Sable*, a chevron between three crosses-crosslets, *or*.

On the nave south wall is an antique oval monument of marble, with this inscription:—"In memory of Robert Cannon, son of Simon Cannon, sen. and Jane his wife, who died on St. John's-day 1690, aged 15 years."—Arms, *Argent*, on a fesse *gules* between three crosses patée *sable*, as many martlets of the first.

On a brass-plate in the middle passage:—"Here lyeth the body of Richard Cannon, who deceased April 29, 1603."

In the church-yard is a very fine yew-tree, 16 feet round with a very large spread. There is also an old cross.



## BISHOP'S-LYDIARD, or LYDIARD-EPISCOPI.

**T**HIS large parish lies at the very northeast extremity of this division of Kingsbury-West, and contiguous to Taunton-Dean. Besides several hamlets, some of which are within that hundred, it comprises a small town; but which was in former times much more considerable and populous than at present, having the advantage of a market and fairs obtained to it of the Kings of England, by the interest of the bishops of the diocese, who were its ancient lords, and from whom it received the name by which it is at this day distinguished.

This district may boast of great antiquity. There is within its precincts a place called CONQUEST, or CONQUEST-FARM, near which, in the year 1666, a very large urn was dug up by a labouring person, containing no less than fourscore pounds weight of Roman coins, of the Emperors Claudius, Nero, Domitian, Nerva, Trajan, Antonine, Septimius-Severus, Tacitus, Gallienus, Tetricus, and a great number of others. Another urn of nearly equal weight, was about the same time found in the parish of Stogumber. From the circumstance of these discoveries, the different ages of the coins, the immenseness of their quantity, and particularly the name of the place CONQUEST, near which they were found, a writer, whose researches are rather more curious than critical, has in a long Treatise<sup>a</sup> endeavoured to prove, that in some place of the valley, which extends from the west side of Quantock, from Taunton to Lydiard, Stogumber and Watchet, the Romans compleated the conquest of so much of Britain as is now called England; and that they, throughout many ages afterwards, continued a legion or part of one here, which they paid with such money as this, to prevent insurrection by land and invasion by sea.

The common tradition however is, that CONQUEST had its name from a signal victory obtained there over the Danes by the Saxons, under the command of King Alfred; which might have been the case, although the other likewise should be strictly true.

Certain it is that King Alfred at that period possessed all the lands of Lydiard; and when he emerged from the troubles in which the Danes had involved him, and began to advert to the concerns of domestick life, he gave this manor, with those of Wellington and Buckland, to Asser the preceptor of his children, as a reward for his care over them. But a short time after, the same disposal which attended Wellington, attended this manor also; and the first bishops of Wells became possessed of this large and valuable territory. Its state about the time of the Norman Conquest may be learnt from the following record:

“ The same Bishop holds LIDEGAR. He also held it in the time of King Edward,  
 “ and gelded for ten hides, wanting one virgate. The arable is sixteen carucates.  
 “ Thereof are in demesne three hides, and there are two carucates, and five servants,

<sup>a</sup> See the Discourse published by Hearne (who ascribes it to Gibbons) in Peter Langtoft's Chronicle, p. 441.

“ and

"and twenty villanes, and twelve cottagers, with six ploughs. There is a mill rendering thirty-one pence, and thirty acres of meadow. Pasture one mile long, and three furlongs broad, and as much wood.

"Of this land of the manor two knights hold three hides of the villanes' land, and have there three ploughs. The whole is worth thirteen pounds."

King Henry III. in the 41st year of his reign granted to the bishop of the diocese a charter of free-warren in all his lands in Lydiard and other places;<sup>c</sup> and King Edw. I. granted a charter for a weekly market to be held here on Monday, and two fairs yearly, viz. on the feast of the Nativity, and the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to continue for six days;<sup>d</sup> which charters received the confirmation of other succeeding kings. A. D. 1293, the episcopal temporalities in this place were rated at 20l.<sup>e</sup> The last bishop that possessed the manor was bishop Barlow, who in 1548 exchanged it away with Edw. VI. for other lands, and thus coming either by grant or purchase through a variety of possessors, it is at length enjoyed by John Lethbridge, esq; whose seat, called *Sandhill-Park*, is situated at the distance of about half a mile westward from the church.

To the east lies LYDIARD-PINCHERTON, or PUNCHARDON, a hamlet and manor, which in the time of Henry II. was held by Hugh de Punchardon, by knight's service, of the castle of Dunster.<sup>f</sup> William de Punchardon, son of this Hugh, was living here in the time of Henry III. and then bore for his arms a cross cercelée voided, as appears from a seal affixed to a deed still extant.<sup>g</sup> This William at his death left several daughters heirs to his estates; of whom Aubrea married Sir Hamelyn de Deaudon, of Deaudon in the county of Devon, by whom she had a son named Thomas, who died without issue, and two daughters; Mabil, wife of Sir Baldwin Malet, of Enmore, and Joan, the wife of Roger de Claville.<sup>h</sup> Mabil had for her part the manor of Lydiard-Punchardon; and 14 Edw. I. she and Thomas de Pin are certified to hold half a knight's fee here of John de Mohun.<sup>i</sup> 1 Edw. IV. Hugh Malet, son of another Sir Baldwin Malet, a descendant of the former of that name, granted to John Wadham the elder, esq; William Ronyon, esq; and others, this his manor of Lydiard-Punchardon, for six years to raise fortunes for his daughters; and afterwards further granted the said manor to Walter Bluet, William Montague of Henley, John Wadham the younger, &c. for the term of life, and to the use of Thomas Malet his son and heir, and Joan his wife, daughter of John Wadham.<sup>k</sup> 27 Henry VII. it appears that William Malet vested this manor and others of his inheritance in Lord Fitzwarren, Sir Amice Poulet, Sir Nicholas Wadham, &c. The present owner thereof is Lady Harriet Acland.

Another manor in this parish, called WEEK,<sup>l</sup> is the property of Richard Cross, of Broomfield, esq. Several small hamlets, unnoticed in history, are likewise included within its limits.

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.    <sup>c</sup> Cart. 41 Hen. III. m. 5.    <sup>d</sup> Cart. 19 Edw. I. n. 45.    <sup>e</sup> Taxat. Temporal.

<sup>f</sup> Lib. Feod. mil. castri de Dunster.    <sup>g</sup> Ex Autog.    <sup>h</sup> Sir William Pole.    <sup>i</sup> Lib. Feod.    <sup>k</sup> Ex Autog.

<sup>l</sup> For the neighbouring manors of East-Bagborough, and East-Combe, see under West-Bagborough, and Combe-Flory, in the adjoining hundred of Taunton-Dean.



The living of Bishop's-Lydiard is a vicarage and peculiar in the deanery of Taunton, and in the patronage of the Dean and Chapter of Wells. The Rev. Mr. Bowen is the present incumbent. It was given A. D. 1239 to the canons of this cathedral by bishop Joceline.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, is large and handsome, consisting of a nave, chancel, and side aisles, all covered with blue tile. A large stately tower, one hundred feet in height, stands at the west end, and contains a clock and eight fine bells.

On the north wall of the chancel is a mural monument of stone, inscribed,—“ In memory of Mrs. Mary Bathurst, first wife of John Palmer, Doctor in Physick, late warden of All-Souls college; afterwards of Dr. Ralph Bathurst, dean of Wells, and president of Trinity college, Oxford; the only child and heir of John Tristram, of Baunton in Devon, esq; by the Hon. Mary Ley, daughter of James earl of Marlborough, Lord High-Treasurer of England, who died at Conquest-Farm in this parish, April 14, 1690, in the 73d year of her age. And also of John Palmer, esq; her son, who died there March 15, 1689. Her only surviving child and executor Elizabeth wife of George Baynard, of Cliffe-house in the county of Dorset, esq; erected this monument as a testimony of her duty and affection.”

On the south wall is a plain neat mural monument of fine white marble, with this inscription:—“ M. S. Elizabethæ Cannon, viri honorabilis Hugonis Somerville, Honoratissimi Domini Jacobi Baronis Somerville, filii natu secundi, dilectissimæ simul & amantissimæ uxoris, Christopheri Lethbridge, de Westaway, in agro Devonix, armigeri, et Mariæ uxoris, sobolis unicæ. Quæ puerperii casibus succumbens, propinquis æque ac amicis flebilis occidit. Fuit inim (si alia quæpiam) valdè amabilis, oris placidi, sermonis suavissimi, integritatis pristinæ, sed virtutes suas, non est hujus marmoris annumerare: quæ et quantæ fuerunt dies supremus indicabit. Obijt die quarto Octobris An. Sal. 1765.”

On the wall of the north aisle is an elegant mural monument of white and Sienna marble, inscribed as follows:—“ In the vault near this place lyeth the body of Elizabeth Periam, relict of John Periam, of Hill, esq; and daughter of John Southey, of Fitzhead, esq; a kind and affectionate wife, whose virtues were conspicuous; in piety truly Christian, in charity liberal, in friendship sincere, benevolent to all. She lived beloved, and died lamented May 14, 1767, aged 63.” Arms, *Gules*, a chevron engrailed between three leopards' heads *or*, Periam: impaling *Gules* a chevron between three crosses-crofflets *argent*, Southey.

On a brass-plate against the east pillar of the south aisle,—“ Here lie entombed the bodies of Nicholas Grobham and Eleanore his wife. He died Aug. 7, 1585, and shee Sept. 27, 1594; levinge issue behind them three sonnes, Richard, John, and George; and two daughters, Johane, and Grace.”

On the south aisle wall in a niche stands a small monument of stone with a wreathed fluted urn, and the following inscription:—“ H. S. E. Vir vere reverendus, Georgius Farewell, A. M. qui in hac ecclesia vicarii munere per 36 annos, fideliter functus, ob. 11 June 1774, ætat. 67.”

On

On a flat stone under the communion-table:—"Here lyeth the body of Henry Poulett, esq; brother to the Hon<sup>ble</sup> John Lord Poulett, baron of Hinton-St.-George, who departed this life the 8th of May - - -."

On another stone:—"Here lyeth the body of Malet Poulett, son of Henry Poulett, esq; who lyeth here by; the said Malet was buried Nov. 23, 1672, aged 38. Also the body of Margaret, daughter of the said Henry, and sister of the said Malet, who dyed Oct. 24, 1683."

On the next stone:—"Here lyeth the body of Mr. William Moore, sen. fellow of New-Col. in Oxon; who lived fifty yeares vicar of this parish; and died the 24th day of May, Anno Dom. 1665, ætat. vero suæ 82."

In the church-yard is a large handsome tomb to the memory of Thomas Hamilton, of Bath, gent. sixth son of John Hamilton, esq; of Neelstone near Glasgow in Scotland, who died June 7, 1779, aged 49.

There is also a fine cross eighteen feet high, with three rows of steps. The pedestal is octangular, and contains sixteen small statues, two in each compartment. Another statue stands in a niche on the east side of the pillar.

Here is an almshouse, founded and endowed with lands, &c. by Grobham Howe, esq; for the maintenance of seven poor people who do not receive any relief of the parish. These are paid two shillings and four-pence a week each, and have separate rooms and gardens. Prayers are read twice a week in the alms-house.

Here is also a charity-school founded by John Dyke, esq; about the year 1740, for clothing and schooling of twenty poor children. This charity is at the disposal of the churchwardens for the time being.

Here is also another charity, given by John Daw, of about eleven pounds a year, for supplying eight poor men with coats of kersey cloth; and eight poor women with druggert jackets, every year. For this charity six trustees are appointed, and the lives filled as they drop.





## A S H - P R I O R S

**L**IES a little to the southwest of Bishop's-Lydiard, and is a small parish so called from the Priors of Taunton, who in former times possessed the manor, and had here a court, or manor-house.

In the time of Edward the Confessor it was a part of the manor of Bishop's-Lydiard, and then consisted of three hides and one yard-land, according to the Danegeld valuation, and was held by bishop Giso; but it was afterwards taken from the church by Harold earl of Kent and Wessex, afterwards king, and at his decease became vested in William the Conqueror, in whose hands it remained till given to Roger Arundel his attendant into England. The compilers of the Norman survey at the end of their recital of the lands belonging to the church of Wells, observe that Roger Arundel holds *Aissa* of the King *injuste*.<sup>a</sup> They likewise give the following further account of this territory:

"Roger himself holds AIXE. Ailric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for two hides. The arable is four carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and three servants, and five villanes, and five cottagers, with two ploughs. There are eight acres of meadow, and ten acres of wood. Pasture two furlongs long, and one furlong broad. It is worth twenty shillings.

"To this manor is added AIXA. Sawin held it of the Bishop of Wells in the time of King Edward, and it could not be separated from him, and gelded for one hide, and one virgate of land. The arable is three carucates. In demesne is one carucate, and the villanes have two carucates and a half. It was and is worth thirty shillings. Roger holds it of the King, and Givold of him."<sup>b</sup>

This Roger Arundel was the son of Roger de Montgomery, lord of Montgomery, a town of Normandy, lying southward from Lisieux. When he came into England with William afterwards surnamed the Conqueror, that King, besides a number of manors and estates lying chiefly within this county, conferred on him, in the second year of his reign, the earldom of Shrewsbury, the barony and castle of Arundel, with the title of Earl, and the county of Suffex appendant. From him the town and county of Montgomery in Wales derived their name. He had several sons, of whom Robert was surnamed Robert of Belleme, a town of Perche, where he had great possessions. He was a benefactor to many monasteries in Normandy and in England; and the priory of Austin-Canons in Taunton lying near this his lordship, he gave the same consisting of two hides, together with the church and appertenances, in perpetual alms to that monastery.<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Lib. Domesday.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid.

<sup>c</sup> The word *Disfam* in the charter of King Edw. III. printed in the *Monasticon*, tom. ii. p. 83, should be corrected *Aissam*.

The temporalities of the prior of Taunton in this parish were in 1293 valued at 100s.<sup>d</sup> There was a house in the village belonging to the priory, the ruins of which were of late taken down.

After the dissolution, King Henry VIII. in the thirty-fifth year of his reign, granted the manor and rectory to John Leighe, from whom it descended to Sir John Leigh, knt. whose daughter and heir Agnes Leigh was married to Edward Fitzgarret, esq. Which Edward Fitzgarret and Agnes his said wife, 9 Eliz. joined in conveying the same to John More and John Bostock.<sup>e</sup> The manor and patronage of the living are now vested in John Lethbridge, esq; who inherits them from his uncle the late John Periam, esq.

Another manor is denominated ASH-HERBERT.

The church of Ash-Priors was valued in 1292 at twenty shillings.<sup>f</sup> It is a curacy in the deanery of Taunton. The Rev. Mr. Luxstone is the present incumbent.

The church is a small building, consisting of a nave, chancel, and north aisle, with a tower at the west end, in which are three bells.

At the northeast corner of the aisle is a stone monument, inscribed to the memory of Robert Blake, gent. who died Nov. 29, and of Mary his wife, who died Oct. 25, 1704, with the obits of several of their children, and the arms, *Argent*, a chevron between three garbs *sable*.

<sup>d</sup> Taxat. Temporal.

<sup>e</sup> MS. Carew.

<sup>f</sup> Taxat. Spiritual.

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.





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## ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO VOLUME II.

- PAGE
3. line 2. after vicarage, read *and a peculiar*.
7. l. 4. for rectory, r. *vicarage*.
32. l. 18. r. Alexander Fownes Luttrell.
43. l. 22. for rectory, r. *curacy*; l. 23. r. the Rev. Nathaniel Lake Price.
45. l. 7. for Knypton, r. *Knyfton*.
46. l. 33. This manor became afterwards parcel of the possession of the abbey of Cleeve; and on the dissolution thereof, Henry VIII. 31st of his reign, granted to John Windham and Elizabeth his wife, in whose family it continued till the present century, when it was sold to Sir John Trevelyan, bart.
56. l. 33. for Taylor, r. *Turner*.
61. title, r. *Catah*; l. 22. r. the Rev. John Whicher.



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63. Barw-South, l. 7. f. nas, r. *bas*; l. 9. f. rectory, r. *curacy and a peculiar*; l. 10, r. the Rev. Thos Charles.
65. l. 4. rectory, r. *curacy*.
73. l. 2. r. the Rev. Mr. Whitehead.
81. l. 2 f. vicarage, r. *rectory*.
83. l. 5 after curacy, r. *and a peculiar*; l. 6. r. the Rev. Rees Thomas.
84. l. 2 after rectory, r. *and a peculiar*.
85. Marton, l. 3. after Can, r. *or Cale*.
94. l. 1 f. characteristic, r. *characteristics*.
92. l. 2. Goldsbrough, r. *Goldsbrough*.
- From 9 to 105 the pages are misnumbered.
93. [1.] l. 32. r. the Rev. John Butler Barber.
96. [1.] l. 10. r. the Rev. James Howell.
105. l. f. taining, r. *containing*.
109. l. line, r. the Rev. John Butler Barber.
112. l. 1. r. the Rev. William Brudenell Barter.
118. l. line. Queen Elizabeth, by letters patent bearing date the 27th of April, in the 18th year of r reign, granted to Roger Manners the priory, rectory, and church of CHEWTON under *Mdip*, with all the rights, members, and appertenances in the county of Somerset, late belonging to the dissolved monastery of Sheane in the county of Surrey, and the advowson and right of patronage to the vicarage and parish church of Chewton aforesaid, and the chapels of mborough, Stone-Easton, Farrington, and Paulton, thereunto annexed. The said Roger Mners afterwards granted the same to Sir George Kingmill, one of the judges of the comon-bench; and the said rectory and right of patronage are now in Robert Kingmill, esq; of idmonton-place in Hampshire. The site of the priory was some years since granted over to ichard Jenkyns, esq; See p. 120.
129. l. 1. It was sold in 1720 by the Stockers to Mr. Hawes, one of the directors of the South-sea Company, from whom it was taken and sold by act of parliament.
- Ibid. & usim, for Lord Weymouth, r. Marquis of Bath.
134. l. 1. r. the Rev. John Hoskins Abrall.
136. l. f. rectory, r. *curacy*; l. 8. f. Ston-Easton, r. *Stone-Easton*.
139. l. 2. f. 1405, r. 1406; l. 38. f. vicarage, r. *curacy*.
145. l. 1. It is now the property of the Rev. Mr. Brookes.
153. Te, f. MIDSUMMER-NORTON, r. PAULTON.
162. l. 1. insert, The living is a curacy, the Rev. Robert Ashett is the present incumbent.
165. l. 1. f. St. Ranus, r. *St. Reyn*; ibid. f. his, r. *her*.
175. l. 1. r. The Rev. George Gibbs.
179. l. 5. f. lies, r. *is a peculiar*; l. 16. f. Canon, r. *Robert*.
200. A manor in this parish belonged to the monastery of Maiden-Bradley in the county of Wilts, and after its dissolution was granted by King Henry VIII. in the 37th year of his reign to Augustin de Augustinis, M. D. who sold it with the advowson of the church of Beckington to Thos lord Wriothesly, and he 1 Edw. VI. conveyed the same to Thomas Compton, gent. and is heirs. 24 Eliz. Joseph Compton sold the said manor, with messuages in Beckington, Ridg Berkley, and Standerwick, to Thomas Webb and Margaret his wife, and Robert Webb the son; MSS. Sydenham and Carew.
206. l. 1. HILL-HOUSE, from which sprang the Liberty of that name, anciently stood in a field of CLCROD Farm, on the east side of the turnpike-road from Frome to Brewton, and about five milcand a quarter from the first-mentioned town. A few old pollard trees, and the irregularity

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- rity of the surface of the ground, serve to point out its site. The annual court for the Liberty is held at Coleford, at which four peace-officers are chosen; one for the Liberty at Coleford; one for the parish of *Holcombe*; one for the tithing of *Edford*; and the other for the tithing of *Allis-Street*, within the parish of *Cloford*.
212. f. rectory, r. *curacy*.
215. l. 25. The new church was consecrated in Sept. 1789.
227. l. 2. r. is a curacy in the deanery of Frome; the Rev. John Rogers is the present incumbent.
229. l. 37. r. The Rev. Robert Wells.
263. l. 34. The livings of Glaston St. Benedict and St. John are curacies; the Rev. Matthew Hodge is the present incumbent.
273. l. 29. The living is a curacy in the jurisdiction of Glastonbury; the Rev. John Owen is the present incumbent.
275. West-Pennard, l. 16. r. The living is a curacy in the jurisdiction of Glastonbury; the Rev. Henry Hopkins is the present incumbent.
311. last line, r. The Rev. Mr. Fallowfield.
326. l. 26. f. notwithstanding, r. *notwithstanding*.
336. l. 4. r. William Morton Pitt.
339. l. 28. r. The Rev. Thomas Tomkins.
342. l. 6. for Mr. r. *Dr.*
343. l. 32. f. son, r. *descendant*.
344. West-Coker, l. 15. r. The Rev. John Jeremy.
352. l. 34. f. a market, r. *one hundred and one merchants*.
359. l. 33. r. The Rev. Thomas Fox.
360. l. 29. after patron, r. *and incumbent*.
370. note <sup>1</sup>, for Excheq. r. *Esc.*
374. l. 2. dele *this parish*. Last line, r. The Rev. John Williams is the present incumbent.
376. l. 33. r. The Rev. Francis Woodforde.
378. l. 16. after marks, r. The Rev. George Hutchins is the present incumbent.
379. l. 26. r. The Rev. John Palmer.
396. last line, after chapel, r. dedicated to St. Paul and St. Augustine.
400. Note <sup>b</sup> last line, for *ay*, r. *day*.
416. l. 18. So in the original, but r. "Plurima; nunc regnat junctus uterque Deo."
418. l. 12. r. The Rev. Dr. Ireland.
479. l. 22. after vicarage, r. *and a peculiar*.
482. f. Alvera, r. *Alveva*.
488. l. 7. This manor belonged to William de Monasteriis in the time of Henry II. and came by his daughter to William de Witefield, who was lord of WHEATFIELD 1 Ric. I. and 3 Joh. Lib. nig. scac. & Rot. pip.
494. last line, After limits, r. of which NONINGTON gave name to an illustrious family, whereof was Sir Baldric de Nonington, a knight and lord of this manor temp. Edw. I.











BOOK.  
Room



